from this world on so short a notice, none thought it too sudden for him, though much too soon for all who knew him.

DISPOSITION AND GOOD QUALITIES.

BEFORE I enter on the subject of Mr Warton's great literary abilities, I must mention what is much more estimable, the virtues and goodness of his heart. Truth, honour, and a generosity of disposition, endeared him to all who knew him; and all who did, will testify to his simple, honest character. From a purity of intention, and an unsuspecting honesty of heart, flowed a gentleness, a simplicity of manners, which rendered him highly amiable to his acquaintance, and endearing to his friends. Faithful to his promises, attentive to the delicacies of strict honour, he was above all the meanness of disguise, and all the little evasions of cold and selfish hearts; a benevolence extensive and refined gave a lustre to every virtue. His liberality of mind, delicate honour, generosity, and fidelity in friendship, were highly estimable. He never did a *mean* action:—always excellent, noble, and elevated in his sentiments; his character was unsullied. He was eminent for all the mild and social virtues. The goodness and sweetness of his disposition were remarkable; his temper was always calm and unruffled. I have seen, frequently, instances of his extreme mildness and forbearance, under much *provocation*, that might be held forth as an example to the world. Such was the elevation of his mind, that he appeared totally above taking notice of what so often discomposes even men of sense and learning; such as the contradictions, scoffs, slights,

> And scorns, which patient merit
> Of th' unworthy takes;

and which are looked on as real grievances in life. But his indifference to these things I attributed to his noble way of thinking. I was intimately acquainted with him for above forty years; and never once saw him what is called *being out of humour*, such was the excellence of his disposition.

BENEVOLENCE AND CHARITY.

ONE of the chief traits in Mr Warton's character was his benevolence. How great must be the charitable temper he possessed, when his income, which solely arose from his merit and literary labours, was great part of it (and the writer of this knows it to be a fact,) spent in benevolent actions! As he was the least ostentatious of men, much of his generous goodness was concealed—yet much was known to the world—the rest to only his Creator, to good Angels, and to himself: his beneficence, like himself, was silent and sincere; it was various in kind, and in manner most obliging.

LITERARY ABILITIES, GENIUS, &c.

OF Mr Warton's literary abilities, genius, and learning, much might be said. He was one of those hard students, who have early stored their memories with sentiments and images; and one of those poets, who have very early felt the motions of genius. He owed to nature excellent faculties and a strong mind, and to industry and great application, many acquired accomplishments. His taste was just and delicate; his judgment clear and strong, accompanied with an imagination of great compass, and richly stored with refined ideas. His mind, vigorous and fervid, was supplied with unceasing and unlimited inquiry, with great extent and variety of knowledge. He had the most perfect command of his intellectual powers, and no one used them with more propriety and effect. His literature was unquestionably great; he had a quickness of apprehension, and strength of mind, which easily understood and surmounted the most difficult points of learning, joined with indefatigable application. But of his *application of books*, which began at a very early age, and was cultivated with unremitting attention to the end of his life, it was uncommon: we may say, he almost lived in the libraries at Ox-

ford; and from his love of books he was never to be diverted. As Dr Johnſon ſays of Pope, "he was one of thoſe few to whom the labour of ſtudy is a pleaſure. On this head, I cannot help mentioning an anecdote I know of his uncommon application to books at a very early age, as it is extraordinary, and I know it to be a fact, from a gentleman then intimate in his family: That when he was a boy of only eleven or twelve years old, ſo devoted was he to his ſtudies, that, in the exceſſive cold nights of the ſevereſt winter perhaps ever felt in England (in 1739-40), he would leave the chearful fireſide of his ſocial family, and retire alone to his chamber, where (in extreme cold) he would *intrepidly* (if I may uſe the expreſſion) ſit hours conſtantly and moſt laboriouſly working at his books, with the cloſeſt intenſeneſs; not in writing a ſchool boy's *taſk*, but in making learned reſearches, as a matter of pleaſure and amuſement: whilſt the chearful family below have been wondering where he was, and vainly attempting to make him one of the ſocial circle. Such a proof of the ſtrong love of literature, at ſuch an early age (and this too in his *Chriſtmas holidays*), *delights* as it is *ſtrange*, and *inſtructs* as it is *real*; and is a convincing proof of the vigour and activity of his young mind.

POETRY AND PROSE.

His works, both in poetry and proſe, were various, and, if they were all collected, would reflect on him the higheſt honour; but his modeſt merit (ſhunning applauſe,) ever diſclaimed the juſt praiſe which talents and induſtry like his merited. He was equally excellent in proſe as in poetry. Of poetry, every reader of taſte will ſee, he was of the ſchool of Spencer and Milton, rather than that of Pope; and, like Milton, his favourite author was Spencer (ſee his ingenious eſſay on that author's works). It was prettily ſaid, by an admired poet, (ſpeaking of Mr Warton)

——He won the muſing train,
And Spencer, ſmiling, lov'd his own ſweet ſtrain.

At a very early age, my friend began to write verſes; he might be ſaid, with Cowley and Milton, to "liſp in numbers:" like Cowley he gave very early proofs, not only of the power of language, but of genius. I am now ſpeaking of what he did before he went to the Univerſity: ſome of thoſe very early compoſitions got abroad, which (as Dr Johnſon ſays of Mr Stepney) "might make gray author's bluſh;" but ſuch was his modeſt diffidence*, he would never ſuffer them to be publiſhed. I have already mentioned, that when merely a boy of ſixteen, juſt entered at Oxford, he wrote his excellent poem, "The Progreſs of Diſcontent." But what ſhall we ſay of the beautiful poem, "The Pleaſures of Melancholy?" written alſo at that age.

E'en in his early years he ſought
The ſweeteſt Muſe to celebrate his fame:
Witneſs his "Melancholy's plaintive ſtrains,
His ruin'd abbeys, moſs-grown piles,
His darkſome pines, his cavern'd cliffs,
And cold Siberia's unrejoicing wilds,
Where pines the baniſh'd Lord."

[The four laſt lines are from the above beautiful poem.]

Even envy muſt acknowledge, that from a boy of ſixteen, it muſt be an extraordinary effort of fancy, expreſſion, and verſification, to produce ſuch a poem. Very ſtriking marks muſt be perceived of a ſtrong and uncommon genius; and of a mind at that early age, ſtored with poetical images and ſimilitudes, and with

Such ſights as youthful poets dream
On Summer's eve, by hunted ſtream.
MILTON.

And Mr Warton was hardly nineteen when he wrote his incomparable

* This diffidence (ſays a learned Critic) in a young Author, is a moſt certain proof of a great genius, not ſatisfied with his own performance, but ſtriving to aim at perfection.

poem

poem "The Triumph of Iſis," which is as often admired as named. It is a moſt manly, ſpirited, and correct performance, and abundantly ſtored with imagery and elegance; it may be numbered among thoſe felicities which cannot be produced alone by labour and wit, but muſt ariſe ſucceſsfully in ſome hour propitious to poetry. He has alſo given us ſpecimens of various compoſitions; witneſs his admirable panegyric on Oxford, and his "Newmarket," a Satire, with others of the ſame caſt: and others of a more ſerious turn are excellent alſo; as his fine verſes to Sir Joſhua Reynolds, on the Window at New College, Oxford; his admirable Ode to Suicide; and many others, particularly a very fine one on the Approach of Summer, and an excellent copy of verſes on the late King's death, addreſſed to Mr Pitt (the late Lord Chatham), beginning with

So ſtream the ſorrows that embalm the brave.

See the laſt edition of Mr W.'s poems.

In all it will be found, that his mind was full of poetical and beautiful images. The Encœnia, and public Collection of Verſes of the Univerſity of Oxford, upon their Majeſties' Marriages, and the Birth of the Prince of Wales, and other loyal ſubjects, were never in ſuch eſteem, either for elegy or congratulation, as when Mr Warton contributed to them; and I remember at that time, it was natural to turn chiefly to his performances in the above work.

His Latin poems are written with much claſſic purity, elegance, and ſimplicity.

PROSE WRITINGS.

As a proſe writer, whoever will examine Mr Warton's ſtyle, will find that he is entitled to a place amongſt the pureſt and moſt correct writers of the Engliſh language. His periods are full and eaſy; his ſtyle familiar, but never coarſe; on grave ſubjects not oſtentatious; on light occaſions not trifling. He has no harſhneſs of diction: his fancy was ſtored with ſuch a variety of images, as well as cogency of argument, that it cannot be ſaid he was unprovided with matter, or that his fancy languiſhed in penury of ideas: witneſs his excellent Eſſay on the "Fairy Queen" of Spencer, and his edition of "Milton's Poems, with Notes, critical, explanatory, and other illuſtrations." But Mr Warton's *Chef d'Oeuvre*, in proſe, was his "Hiſtory of Engliſh Poetry, from the Cloſe of the Eleventh, to the Commencement of the Eighteenth Century; to which is prefixed, Two Diſſertations on the Origin of Romantic Fiction in Europe, and a Diſſertation on the *Geſta Romanorum*."

What though no marble piled buſt
Adorn his ever-honoured duſt,
With ſpeaking ſculpture wrought.
Friendſhip ſhall woo the weeping Nine
To build a viſionary ſhrine,
Hung with unfading flowers, from fairy regions brought.
——There viewleſs mourners ſhall delight
To touch the ſhadowy ſhell,
And Petrarch's harp—
In many a ſolemn pauſe, ſhall ſeem to ring his knell.

E. M.

ACCOUNT OF A HERMIT IN STAFFORDSHIRE,

STILL BELIEVED TO BE IN LIFE.

IN the midſt of an extenſive foreſt in Staffordſhire called Chank Wood, two miles at leaſt from any frequented road, having ſurmounted a ſteep hill, and beheld before me a deep valley, in the midſt of which another little hill aroſe; towards the top of this laſt was my Hermit's habitation, partly built with brick, and partly dug in the ground; a little ſmoke gently aſcending towards the top of the eminence, ſerving to mark it for a human dwelling, from the dreary waſte around; about three yards from it, and leaning againſt the little

little gate of his little garden, appeared the venerable Sire, who, approaching me with courteous but feeble ſteps, aſked me if I had loſt my way, and offered to ſet me right.—I alighted from my horſe, and attended him to his cottage; cloſe to which on the left a board was fixed with theſe lines inſcribed: I give you them *verbatim et literatim.*

Brown Beſs is kill'd, no luck but bad for me;
She had no foul to loſe or ſave, yet her I lov'd to ſee;
Each morn ſhe did my humble cot attend,
She was my kind companion and my ſilent friend.

To the memory of a Hare, killed by Mr Anſon's hounds after a chace of three hours.

I then entered the old man's dwelling, which was about half the ſize of your inner parlour, and in which a little turf on the hearth, a few religious books, and a miſerable bed, were the only objects that drew my attention. I next attended him down the hill, where he ſhowed me a cavity nearly bricked by his own hands, and of the dimenſions of a human body: this, ſays he, is to be my grave, and I have a friend who, if he ſurvives me, will depoſit my remains here. Laſt of all, I peeped over a broom hedge into his garden, where the cabbages and potatoes would have been more plentiful, if the hares and rabbits had been leſs ſo. I now began to have leiſure to contemplate the extraordinary inhabitant of theſe dreary ſcenes, and found him courteous, intelligent, and contented.—I have ſpent twelve years, ſays he, in this place; in which nothing has diſturbed my religious peace, unleſs indeed it was the death of that hare, which viſited me conſtantly with the utmoſt familiarity, and whoſe loſs this noiſy cur by my ſide does but ill ſupply.—I have been aſked for my beard; but I ſeek not ſingularity for its own ſake, and with to dreſs, as far as I can, like other folks of my age and circumſtances. I walk three miles to church every Sunday, when I am prevented neither by illneſs nor weather; in theſe caſes I ſerve God at home, and can do it as well: I have been richer than now, but neither happier, nor more independent: as I often dine on bread and water ſweetened with a little ſugar, with perfect ſatisfaction.—I drink beer, however, and ale too, when I can get it; and ſometimes have brought a bottle of it in my hand from the town to my cottage; but there are no means of conveying any quantity hither; and I will not go there to ſeek it. If I quit this retreat, I muſt go into a workhouſe, which I diſlike; here I am quite contented: with what you have brought me from your charitable female friend, I have ſeventeen ſhillings, and have no farther anxiety for the winter: once I was here three whole days ſurrounded with ſnow, and unable to ſtir five yards from my dwelling; but I had bacon which had been ſent me by a friend; I had potatoes; and I had ſnow water to drink; and I had a mind perfectly at reſt." So far for the worthy Hermit, about whom all I have ſaid is exactly true, only that the real ſpeech was probably not worded in the ſame manner, and was interrupted by occaſional queſtions from me." *Europ. Mag.*

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

DR ADAM FERGUSON TO MR GIBBON.

Edinburgh, March 19. 1776.

Dear Sir, I received, about eight days ago, after I had been reading your Hiſtory, the copy which you have been ſo good as to ſend me, and for which I now trouble you with my thanks. But even if I had not been thus called upon to offer you my reſpects, I could not have refrained from congratulating you on the merit, and undoubted ſucceſs, of this valuable performance. The perſons of this place, whoſe judgment you will value moſt, agree in opinion, that

that you have made a great addition to the claſſical literature of England, and given us what Thucydides propoſed leaving with his own countrymen, a *poſſeſſion in perpetuity*. Men of a certain modeſty and merit always exceed the expectations of their friends; and it is with very great pleaſure I tell you, that although you muſt have obſerved in me every mark of conſideration and regard, that this is, nevertheleſs, the caſe, I receive your inſtruction, and ſtudy your model, with great deference, and join with every one elſe, in applauding the extent of your plan, in hands ſo well able to execute it. Some of your readers, I find, were impatient to get at the fifteenth chapter, and began at that place. I have not heard much of their criticiſm, but am told that many doubt of your orthodoxy. I wiſh to be always of the charitable ſide, while I own you have proved that the cleareſt ſtream may become foul when it comes to run over the muddy bottom of human nature. I have not ſtayed to make any particular remarks. If any ſhould occur on the ſecond reading, I ſhall not fail to lay in my claim to a more needed, and more uſeful admonition from you, in caſe I ever produce any thing that merits your attention. And am, with the greateſt reſpect, Dear Sir, your moſt obliged, and moſt humble Servant, ADAM FERGUSON.

MR FERGUSON TO MR GIBBON.

Edinburgh, April 18. 1776.

DEAR SIR, I ſhould make ſome apology for not writing you ſooner an anſwer to your obliging letter; but if you ſhould honour me frequently with ſuch requeſts, you will find that, with very good intentions, I am a very dilatory and irregular correſpondent. I am ſorry to tell you, that our reſpectable friend Mr Hume is ſtill declining in his health; he is greatly emaciated, and loſes ſtrength. He talks familiarly of his near proſpect of dying. His mother, it ſeems, died under the ſame ſymptoms; and it appears ſo little neceſſary, or proper, to flatter him, that no one attempts it. I never obſerved his underſtanding more clear, or his humour more pleaſant and lively. He has a great averſion to leave the tranquillity of his own houſe, to go in ſearch of health among inns and hoſtlers. And his friends here gave way to him for ſome time; but now think it neceſſary that he ſhould make an effort to try what change of place and air, or any thing elſe Sir John Pringle may adviſe, can do for him. I left him this morning in the mind to comply in this article, and I hope that he will be prevailed on to ſet out in a few days. He is juſt now ſixty-five.

I am very glad that the pleaſure you give us, recoils a little on yourſelf, through our feeble teſtimony. I have, as you ſuppoſe, been employed, at any intervals of leiſure or reſt I have had for ſome years, in taking notes, or collecting materials, for a Hiſtory of the diſtractions that broke down the Roman Republic, and ended in the eſtabliſhment of Auguſtus and his immediate ſucceſſors. The compliment you are pleaſed to pay, I cannot accept of, even to my ſubject. Your ſubject now appears with advantages it was not ſuppoſed to have had; and I ſuſpect that the magnificence of the mouldering ruin will appear more ſtriking, than the ſame building when the view is perplexed with ſcaffolding, workmen, and diſorderly lodgers, and the ear is ſtunned with the noiſe of deſtructions and repairs, and the alarms of fire. The night which you begin to deſcribe is ſolemn, and there are gleams of light ſuperior to what is to be found in any other time. I comfort myſelf, that as my trade is the ſtudy of human nature, I could not fix on a more intereſting corner of it, than the end of the Roman Republic. Whether my compilations ſhould ever deſerve the attention of any one beſides myſelf, muſt remain to be determined after they are farther advanced. I take the liberty to trouble you with the incloſed for Mr Smith, whoſe

un-

uncertain ſtay in London makes me at a loſs how to direct for him. You have both ſuch reaſon to be pleaſed with the world juſt now, that I hope you are pleaſed with each other. I am, with the greateſt reſpect, Dear Sir, your moſt obedient, and moſt humble Servant, ADAM FERGUSON.

From Miſcellaneous Works of E. Gibbon, Eſq;

ANECDOTES AND GLEANINGS.

MR BEAUCLERC.

MR BEAUCLERC was one of the early acquaintances of Dr Johnſon in the meridian of his literary fame, and one to whom he paid great conſideration on account of his learning and abilities. He often lamented that his indolence and diſſipation prevented him from bringing his talents to ſome uſeful deſignations, ſaying—"What Beauclerc would write would be read with avidity: he ſees moſt ſubjects ſtrongly and clearly, and has great taſte in embelliſhing them;" but his mode of living debarred him from any of the great purſuits of life; ſcarcely ever riſing till evening, and then ſitting up the beſt part of the night, either in literary ſocieties or parties of play.

Soon after his death, which happened about ſixteen years ago, Dr Johnſon gave the following character of him at the club:—he ſaid, he was the moſt general man in his knowledge, and poſſeſſed the greateſt dexterity of mind in converſation, he ever knew; he hit the ſooneſt, the hardeſt, and faireſt, of any antagoniſt; and ſeldom attempted to argue without ſucceeding in thoſe three points. He then continued, "he had, however, great ill-nature about him; and at times it ſeemed to give him the greateſt pleaſure to ſay the moſt malicious things of his beſt friends; not that I believe he would act upon this, and do a deliberate miſchief to any one; it ſeemed to be the mere indulgence of a jealous or petulant moment."

"Wyndham too," continued the Doctor, "has great comprehenſion of mind, but his exerciſe of it is different. Beauclerc was like a greyhound, that whipped up his prey on the firſt ſtretch, whereas Wyndham is more like a bulldog, who ſucceeds by perſeverance."

Mr Beauclerc had the beſt library of any private gentleman of his time, and, perhaps, as well arranged. His method was, when he began a claſs, either in arts or ſciences, to continue buying principally in that claſs till he had completed it. By theſe means his collection was very perfect. His conduct to his booksellers, too, deſerves ſome notice (and we believe in this reſpect not ſo ſimilar to the general conduct of his anceſtor). When he wanted books, he ſent in a catalogue, according to the largeneſs of the ſum they might amount to, to ſuch booksellers as he thought could beſt lie out of their money: here the debt reſted till either ſuch time as his annuities came round, or he had a ſucceſsful run at play: when either of theſe happened, he punctually called upon his creditors, and diſcharged it with honour. He has often, in theſe inſtances, paid ſo large a ſum as *fifteen hundred pounds* at a time. This library at his death ſold by auction for *ſix thouſand and eight pounds* odd ſhillings: it was mortgaged to his brother-in-law, the Duke of Marlborough, for *ſix thouſand*; ſo that it was ſaid, if his Grace was not an accurate judge of *good books*, he certainly was of *good ſecurities*.

CHARLES THE SECOND.

AN addreſs being once preſented from the city to this monarch by the Lord Mayor, attended by Sir Robert Clayton, Mr Bethell, and Mr Cornish, the King returned an anſwer by the Lord Chancellor, which concluded thus:

"The King doth not believe this to be ſo unanimous a vote of the city as is pretended, and he commands me to tell you, that if he did believe it were ſo (as he does not), that you have meddled with a thing *which is none of your buſineſs*—" and ſo diſmiſſed them.—*Memoirs of the Reign of Cha. II. by Sir Richard Baſtrode.*

HUMUROUS ACCOUNT OF AMERICAN WHITE-WASHING.

BY THE LATE DR FRANKLIN.—*Not published in his Works.*

SIR,

MY wish is to give you some account of the people of these new states, but I am far from being qualified for the purpose, having as yet seen little more than the cities of New York and Philadelphia. I have discovered but few national singularities among them. Their customs and manners are nearly the same with those of England, which they have long been used to copy. For, previous to the revolution, the Americans were from their infancy, taught to look up to the English as patterns of perfection in all things. I have observed, however, one custom, which, for aught I know, is peculiar to this country. An account of it will serve up the remainder of this sheet, and may afford you some amusement.

When a young couple are about to enter into the matrimonial state, a never-failing article in the marriage-treaty is, that the lady shall have and enjoy the free and unmolested exercise of the rights of *white-washing*, with all its ceremonials, privileges, and appurtenances. A young woman would forego the most advantageous connection, and even disappoint the warmest wish of her heart, rather than resign the invaluable right. You will wonder what this privilege of *white-washing* is: I will endeavour to give you some idea of the ceremony, as I have seen it performed.

There is no season of the year in which the lady may not claim her privilege, if she pleases; but the latter end of May is most generally fixed upon for the purpose. The attentive husband may judge by certain prognostics when the storm is nigh at hand. When the lady is unusually fretful, finds fault with the servants, is discontented with the children, and complains much of the filthiness of every thing about her—these are signs which ought not to be neglected; yet they are not decisive, as they sometimes come on and go off again, without producing any farther effect. But if, when the husband rises in the morning, he should observe in the yard, a wheel-barrow with a quantity of lime in it, or should see certain buckets with lime dissolved in water, there is then no time to be lost; he immediately locks up the apartment or closet where his papers or his private property are kept, and putting the key in his pocket, betakes himself to flight: for a husband, however beloved, becomes a perfect nuisance during this season of female rage; his authority is superseded, his commission is suspended, and the very scullion who cleans the brasses in the kitchen, becomes of more consideration and importance than him. He has nothing for it, but to abdicate, and run from an evil which he can neither prevent nor mollify.

The husband gone, the ceremony begins. The walls are in a few minutes stripped of their furniture; paintings, prints, and looking-glasses, lie in a huddled heap about the floors; the curtains are torn from the tellers, the beds crammed into the windows; chairs and tables, bedsteads and cradles, crowd the yard; and the garden-fence bends beneath the weight of carpets, blankets, cloth cloaks, old coats, and ragged breeches. *Here* may be seen the lumber of the kitchen, forming a dark and confused mass: for the foreground of the picture, gridirons and frying pans, rusty shovels and broken tongs, spits and pots, joint stools, and the fractured remains of rush-bottomed chairs. *There* a closet has disgorged its bowels, cracked tumblers, broken wine glasses, phials of forgotten physic, papers of unknown powders, seeds and dried herbs, handfuls of old corks, tops of teapots, and stoppers of departed decanters;—from the rag-hole in the garret, to the rat-hole in the cellar, no place escapes unrummaged. It would seem as if the day of general doom was come,

come, and the utenſils of the houſe were dragged forth to judgment. In this tempeſt, the words of Lear naturally preſent themſelves, and might, with ſome alteration, be made ſtrictly applicable:

——Let the great gods,
That keep this dreadful pudder o'er our heads,
Find out their enemies now. Tremble, thou wretch,
That haſt within thee undivulged crimes
Unwhipt of juſtice!—

——Cloſe pent-up guilt,
Raise your concealing continents, and ask
Theſe dreadful ſummoners grace!

This ceremony completed, and the houſe thoroughly evacuated, the next operation is to ſmear the walls and ceilings of every room and cloſet with brushes dipped in a ſolution of lime, called *white waſh*; to pour buckets of water over every floor, and ſcratch all the partitions and wainſcots with rough brushes wet with ſoap-ſuds, and dipped in ſtone cutters ſand. The windows by no means eſcape the general deluge. A ſervant ſcrambles out upon the penthouſe, at the riſk of her neck, and with a mug in her hand, and a bucket within reach, ſhe daſhes away innumerable gallons of water againſt the glaſs panes; to the great annoyance of the paſſengers in the ſtreet.

I have been told that an action at law was once brought againſt one of theſe water nymphs, by a perſon who had a new ſuit of cloaths ſpoiled by this operation; but, after long argument, it was determined by the whole court, that the action would not lie, in as much as the defendant was in the exerciſe of a legal right, and not anſwerable for the conſequences; and ſo the poor gentleman was doubly non-ſuited; for he loſt not only his ſuit of cloaths, but his ſuit at law.

Theſe ſmearings and ſcratchings, waſhings and daſhings, being duly performed, the next ceremonial is to cleanſe and replace the diſtracted furniture. You may have ſeen a houſe-raiſing, or a ſhip-launch, when all the hands within reach are collected together: recollect, if you can, the hurry, buſtle, confuſion, and noiſe of ſuch a ſcene, and you will have ſome idea of this cleaning match. The misfortune is, that the ſole object is to make things clean; it matters not how many uſeful, ornamental, or valuable, articles are mutilated, or ſuffer death under the operation: a mahogany chair and carved frame undergo the ſame diſcipline; they are to be made *clean* at all events; but their preſervation is not worthy of attention. For inſtance, a fine large engraving is laid flat upon the floor; ſmaller prints are piled upon it, and the ſuperincumbent weight cracks the glaſſes of the lower tier: but this is of no conſequence. A valuable picture is placed leaning againſt the ſharp corner of a table; others are made to lean againſt that, until the preſſure of the whole forces the corner of the table through the canvas of the firſt. The frame and glaſs of a fine print are to be *cleaned*; the ſpirit and oil uſed on this occaſion are ſuffered to leak through and ſpoil the engraving; no matter; if the glaſs is clean, and the frame ſhine, it is ſufficient: the reſt is not worthy of conſideration. An able arithmetician has made an accurate calculation, founded on long experience, and has diſcovered, that the loſſes and deſtruction incident to two white-waſhings are equal to one removal, and three removals equal to one fire.

The cleaning frolic over, matters begin to reſume their priſtine appearance. The florra abates, and all would be well again; but it is impoſſible that ſo great a convulſion, in ſo ſmall a community, ſhould not produce ſome farther effects. For two or three weeks after the operation, the family are uſually afflicted with ſore throats or ſore eyes; occaſioned by the cauſtic quality of the lime, or with ſevere colds from the exhalations of wet floors or damp walls.

I

I know a gentleman, who was fond of accounting for every thing in a philoſophical way. He conſiders this, which I have called a cuſtom, as a real periodical diſeaſe, peculiar to the climate. His train of reaſoning is ingenious and whimſical; but I am not at leiſure to give you a detail. The reſult was, that he found the diſtemper to be incurable; but, after much ſtudy, he conceived he had diſcovered a method to divert the evil he could not ſubdue. For this purpoſe, he cauſed a ſmall building, about twelve feet ſquare, to be erected in his garden, and furniſhed with ſome ordinary chairs and tables; and a few prints of the cheapeſt ſort were hung againſt the walls. His hope was, that when the white-waſhing frenzy ſeized the females of his family, they might repair to this apartment, and ſcrub and ſcour, and ſmear to their heart's content; and ſo ſpend the violence of the diſeaſe in this outpoſt, while he enjoyed himſelf in quiet at head-quarters. But the experiment did not anſwer his expectation; it was impoſſible it ſhould, ſince a principal part of the gratification conſiſts in the lady's having an uncontrouled right to torment her huſband at leaſt once a-year, and to turn him out of doors, and take the reins of government into her own hands.

There is a much better contrivance than this of the philoſopher; which is, to cover the walls of the houſe with paper; this is generally done; and though it cannot abolith, it at leaſt ſhortens the period of female dominion. The paper is decorated with flowers of various fancies, and made ſo ornamental that the women have admitted the faſhion, without perceiving the deſign.

There is alſo another alleviation of the huſband's diſtreſs; he generally has the privilege of a ſmall room or cloſet for his books and papers, the key of which he is allowed to keep. This is conſidered as a privileged place, and ſtands like the land of Goſhen amid the plagues of Egypt. But then he muſt be extremely cautious, and ever on his guard. For ſhould he inadvertently go abroad, and leave the key in his door, the houſemaid who is always on the watch for ſuch an opportunity, immediately enters in triumph with buckets, brooms, and bruſhes; takes poſſeſſion of the premiſſes, and forthwith puts all his books and papers *to rights*: to his utter confuſion, and ſometimes ſerious detriment. For inſtance:

A gentleman was ſued by the executors of a tradeſman, on a charge found againſt him in the deceaſed's books, to the amount of 30l. The defendant was ſtrongly impreſſed with an idea, that he had diſcharged the debt and taken a receipt; but as the tranſaction was of long ſtanding, he knew not where to find the receipt. The ſuit went on in courſe, and the time approached when judgment would be obtained againſt him. He then ſat ſeriouſly down to examine a bundle of old papers, which he had untied and diſplayed on a table for that purpoſe. In the midſt of his ſearch, he was ſuddenly called away on buſineſs of importance; he forgot to lock the door of his room. The houſemaid who had been long looking out for ſuch an opportunity, immediately entered with the uſual implements, and with great alacrity fell to cleaning the room, and putting things *to rights*. The firſt object that ſtruck her eye was the confuſed ſtate of the papers on the table; theſe were without delay bundled together, like ſo many dirty knives and forks? but in the action a ſmall piece of paper fell unnoticed on the floor, which happened to be the very receipt in queſtion; as it had no very reſpectable appearance, it was ſoon after ſwept out with the common dirt of the room, and carried in a rubbiſh pan to the yard. The tradeſman had neglected to enter the credit in his book; the defendant could find nothing to obviate the charge, and ſo judgment went againſt him for the debt and coſts. A fortnight after the whole was ſettled,

and the money paid, one of the children found the receipt among the rubbiſh in the yard.

There is alſo another cuſtom peculiar to the city of Philadelphia, and nearly allied to the former. I mean that of waſhing the pavement before the doors every Saturday evening. I at firſt took this to be a regulation of the police; but, on further inquiry, find it is a religious rite, preparatory to the Sabbath; and is, I believe, the only religious rite in which the numerous ſectaries of this city perfectly agree. The ceremony begins about ſun-ſet, and continues till about ten or eleven at night. It is very difficult for a ſtranger to walk the ſtreets on thoſe evenings; he runs a continual riſk of having a bucket of dirty water thrown againſt his legs; but a Philadelphian born, is ſo much accuſtomed to the danger, that he avoids it with ſurpriſing dexterity. It is from this circumſtance that a Philadelphian may be known any where by his gait. The ſtreets of New York are paved with rough ſtones; theſe indeed are not waſhed, but the dirt is ſo thoroughly ſwept from before the doors, that the ſtones ſtand up ſharp and prominent, to the great inconvenience of thoſe who are not accuſtomed to ſo rough a path. But habit reconciles every thing. It is diverting enough to ſee a Philadelphian at New York; he walks the ſtreet with as much painful caution, as if his toes were covered with corns, or his feet lamed with the gout; while a New Yorker, as little approving the plain maſonry of Philadelphia, ſhuffles along the pavement like a parrot on a mahogany table.

It muſt be acknowledged, that the ablutions I have mentioned are attendtended with no ſmall inconvenience; but the women would not be induced, from any conſideration, to reſign their privilege. Notwithſtanding this, I can give you the ſtrongeſt aſſurances that the women of America make the moſt faithful wives, and the moſt attentive mothers in the world; and I am ſure you will join me in opinion, that if a married man is made miſerable only *one* week in a whole year, he will have no great cauſe to complain of the matrimonial bond. I am, &c.

ANSWER TO THE ABOVE,

IN THE CHARACTER OF A LADY.—*But really by the ſame Hand.*

SIR,

I HAVE lately ſeen a letter upon the ſubject of *white-waſhing*, in which that neceſſary duty of a good houſewife is treated with unmerited ridicule. I ſhould probably have forgot the fooliſh thing by this time; but the ſeaſon coming on, which moſt women think ſuitable for cleanſing their apartments from the ſmoke and dirt of the winter, I find this fuſty author diſhed up in every family, and his ſippant performance ſpouted wherever a wife attempts to exercie her reaſonable prerogative, or execute the duties of her ſtation. Women generally employ their time to better purpoſe than ſcribbling. The cares and comforts of a family reſt principally upon their ſhoulders; hence it is that there are but few female authors; and the men, knowing how neceſſary our attentions are to their happineſs, take every opportunity of diſcouraging literary accompliſhments in the fair ſex. You hear it echoed from every quarter:—"My wife cannot make verſes, it is true; but ſhe makes an excellent pudding; ſhe can't correct the preſs, but ſhe can correct her children, and ſcold her ſervants with admirable diſcretion; ſhe can't unravel the intricacies of political economy and federal government; but ſhe can knit ſtockings." And this they call praiſing a wife, and doing juſtice to her character, with much nonſenſe of the like kind.

I ſay, women generally employ their time to much better purpoſe than ſcribbling; otherwiſe this facetious writer had

had not gone so long unanswered. We have ladies who sometimes lay down the needle, and take up the pen; I wonder none of them have attempted some reply. For my part, I do not pretend to be an author. I never appeared in print in my life, but I can no longer forbear saying something in answer to such impertinence, circulate how it may. Only, sir, consider our situation. Men are naturally inattentive to the decencies of life; but why should I be so complaisant? I say, they are naturally filthy creatures. If it were not that their connection with the refined sex polished their manners, and had a happy influence on the general economy of life, these lords of the creation would wallow in filth, and populous cities would infect the atmosphere with their noxious vapours. It is the attention and assiduity of the women that prevent men from degenerating into mere swine. How important then are the services we render; and yet for these very services we are made the subject of ridicule and fun. Base ingratitude! Nauseous creatures! Perhaps you may think I am in a passion. No, sir, I do assure you I never was more composed in my life; and yet it is enough to provoke a saint to see how unreasonably we are treated by the men. Why now, there's my husband—a good enough sort of a man in the main—but I will give you a sample of him.

He comes into the parlour the other day, where, to be sure, I was cutting up a piece of linen. Lord! says he, what a flutter here is! I can't bear to see the parlour look like a tailor's shop; besides, I am going to make some important philosophical experiments, and must have sufficient room. You must know my husband is one of your would-be philosophers. Well, I bundled up my linen as quick as I could, and began to darn a pair of ruffles, which took up no room, and could give no offence. I thought, however, I would watch my lord and master's important business. In about half an hour the tables were covered with all manner of trumpery; bottles of water, phials of drugs, pasteboard, paper and cards, glew, paste, and gum-arabic; files, knives, scissars and needles; rosin, wax, silk, thread, rags, jags, tags, books, pamphlets, and papers. Lord bless me! I am almost out of breath, and yet I have not enumerated half the articles; well, to work he went, and although I did not understand the object of his manœuvres, yet I could sufficiently discover that he did not succeed in any one operation. I was glad of that, I confess, and with good reason too; for, after he had fatigued himself with mischief, like a monkey in a china shop, and had called the servants to clear every thing away, I took a view of the scene my parlour exhibited. I shall not even attempt a minute description; suffice to say, that he had overset his ink-stand, and stained my best mahogany table with ink; he had spilt a quantity of vitriol, and burnt a large hole in my carpet; my marble hearth was all over spotted with melted rosin; beside this he had broken three china cups, four wine-glasses, two tumblers, and one of my handsomest decanters: And, after all, as I said before, I perceived that he had not succeeded in any one operation. By the bye, tell your friend the white-wash scribbler, that this is one means by which our closets become furnished with "halves of china-bowls, cracked tumblers, broken wine-glasses, tops of tea-pots, and stoppers of departed decanters." I say, I took a view of the dirt and devastation my philosophic husband had occasioned; and there I sat, like Patience on a monument smiling at grief; but it worked inwardly. I would almost as soon the melted rosin and vitriol had been in his throat, as on my dear marble hearth and beautiful carpet. It is not true that women have no power over their own feelings, for notwithstanding this provocation, I said nothing, or next to nothing: for I only observed, very pleasantly, what a lady of my acquaintance had told me, that the reason why philosophers are called

called *literally* men, is becauſe they make a great *litter*; not a word more; however, the ſervant cleared away, and down ſat the philoſopher. A friend dropt in ſoon after—Your ſervant, ſir, how do you do? "O lord! I am almoſt fatigued to death; I have been all this morning making philoſophical experiments." I was now more hardly put to it to ſmother a laugh, than I had been juſt before to contain my rage; my *precious* went out ſoon after, and I, as you may ſuppoſe, muſtered all my forces; brufhes, buckets, ſoap, ſand, limeſkins, and cocoa-nut ſhells, with all the powers of houſewifery, were immediately employed. I was certainly the beſt philoſopher of the two; for my experiments ſucceeded and his did not. All was well again, except my poor carpet, my vitriolized carpet, which ſtill continued a mournful memento of philoſophic fury, or rather philoſophic folly. This operation was ſcarce over, when in came my experimental philoſopher, and told me, with all the indifference in the world, that he had invited ſix gentlemen to dine with him at three o'clock. It was then paſt one. I complained of the ſhort notice; poh! poh! ſaid he, you can get a leg of mutton, and a loin of veal, and a few potatoes, which will do well enough. Heavens! what a chaos muſt the head of a philoſopher be! a leg of mutton, a loin of veal and potatoes! I was at a loſs whether I ſhould laugh or be angry; but there was no time for determining: I had but an hour and half to do a world of buſineſs in. My carpet, which had ſuffered in the cauſe of experimental philoſophy in the morning, was deſtined to be moſt ſhamefully diſhonoured in the afternoon by a deluge of naſty tobacco juice. Gentlemen ſmoakers love ſegars better than carpets. Think, ſir, what a woman muſt endure under ſuch circumſtances; and then, after all, to be reproached with her cleanlineſs, and to have her white-waſhings, her ſcourings and ſcrubbings made the ſubject of ridicule, it is more than patience can put up with. What I have now exhibited is but a ſmall ſpecimen of the injuries we ſuſtain from the boaſted ſuperiority of men. But we will not be laughed out of our cleanlineſs. A woman would rather be called any thing than a *ſlut*, as a man would rather be thought a knave than a fool. I had a great deal more to ſay; but I am called away: we are juſt preparing to white-waſh, and of courſe I have a deal of buſineſs on my hands. The white-waſh buckets are paraded, the brufhes are ready, my huſband is gone off—ſo much the better: when one is about a thorough cleaning, the firſt duty thing to be removed is one's huſband. I am called for again. Adieu.

LESSONS AGAINST YOUTHFUL CUNNING.

IN the concluſion of our laſt extract from Dr Moore's Edward, (*See page* 37.) the reader will obſerve, that the excellent Mrs Barnet had prevailed upon her huſband to permit her to receive into the houſe the little orphan ſtranger. In the courſe of the narrative, we find him ſent to ſchool, and riſing every day in the eſtimation of all that knew him. In the following ſcene, in particular, he appears to the greateſt advantage; and we ſelect this ſcene with the greater pleaſure, as we think it a point of the utmoſt importance to diſcourage cunning in a child; for cunning, as Mr Locke juſtly obſerves, is the ape of wiſdom.

WHILE Edward fully ſupported at ſchool the amiable character he had acquired, the advantages he reaped, when he returned to Mr Barnet's in the vacations, were of more value, perhaps, than all he acquired during the reſt of the year; for Mrs Barnet neglected no opportunity of inſtilling honourable principles into his mind. Edward liſtened with delight to her inſtructions, not only on account of their being conſonant to every idea of virtue which he could

could form, but likewiſe on account of the love and veneration in which he held his inſtructreſs.

While ſo many things contributed to make Edward's ſituation in Mr Barnet's family pleaſant, one circumſtance tended to render it diſagreeable. Mention has been made of Mr Barnet's daughter: it was this girl's misfortune to be the darling of her father; next to ſtewed carp, there was nothing on earth he loved ſo much as her. She was a brunette like her mother, and had the fineſt black eyes and moſt lively look that can be imagined—of courſe, nothing could be more unlike the vacancy of Mr Barnet's face, than the ſprightly looks of his daughter.

Yet he was often told, by thoſe who were inclined to flatter him, that ſhe was very like him, which he believed, and believed, at the ſame time, what he often told her, that ſhe was the pretieſt girl in the world.

Mr Barnet's extreme indulgence to his daughter, and the compliments he paid to her beauty, gave much vexation to the mother, who dreaded their effects on the temper and diſpoſition of the girl. Mrs Barnet had earneſtly tried to prevail on her huſband to abſtain from praiſing the girl's looks, and from gratifying her in whatever ſhe ſhewed any inclination for;—but all Mrs Barnet's endeavours were fruitleſs; for in praiſing and gratifying his daughter, he gratified himſelf, which had more weight with Barnet, than all the remonſtrances of his wife, or than any other conſideration. Mrs Barnet therefore thought herſelf obliged to ſacrifice the pleaſure ſhe had propoſed to herſelf, of entirely educating and forming the mind of her daughter, and placed her in a boarding-ſchool in the capital.—Although Barnet did not quite reliſh this plan, he did not long oppoſe it: for, on reflection, he ſaid, *that it ſtood to reaſon* that mothers could not be ſuppoſed to be able to educate their daughters ſo well as thoſe women who made a trade of it.

The ſame motive which prompted Mrs Barnet to ſend her daughter to the boarding ſchool, determined her in keeping the girl there ſeveral years: ſhe returned, however, to her father's houſe at certain periods every year, which were alſo the periods in which Edward returned from ſchool. He always behaved to her with the reſpect due to the child of his benefactors; and endeavoured, by every honourable means that his young imagination could ſuggeſt, to deſerve her regard and acquire her good will. But, perceiving the cold manner in which ſhe received his attentions, and ſhocked at the haughty ſtile in which ſhe ſpoke, when ſhe deigned to ſpeak to him at all, he ſhrunk into a reſerve and diſtance of deportment very different from what he aſſumed to either of her parents.

Mrs Barnet obſerved ſomething of her daughter's haughty manner, and the effect it had on him, although both the young lady and the boy endeavoured to conceal them from her.

Being concerned at this, on her daughter's account, ſhe ſpoke to her on the ſubject, and ended her remonſtrance by obſerving, that ſhe would give an ill impreſſion of her own diſpoſition, by behaving in ſuch a manner to any body, but particularly to one of ſo amiable a character as Edward.

This reproof ſeemed to increaſe the girl's ill-will towards him, which broke out in the following manner.

Mrs Barnet had received a preſent of a beautiful piece of china, which ſhe valued above its real worth, on account of the perſon who gave it.

It was placed; with other pieces of china, on a chimney-piece in the drawing-room; and Mrs Barnet often gave directions, particularly to her daughter, that it ſhould not be removed from its place.

One forenoon, during the ſummer vacation, Edward ſat in this room reading, when Miſs Barnet entered with Miſs Fuller, another young lady, to whom

whom ſhe wiſhed to ſhew this fine piece of china.

Unmindful of her mother's injunction, "I will bring it to the window," ſaid Miſs Barnet to her companion, "and then you will ſee it better."

"Pray, Miſs Louiſa, be careful not to let it fall," ſaid Edward, "for you know it would make your mamma ſo uneaſy."

"That is no buſineſs of yours," ſaid Miſs Barnet, tartly; and at the ſame inſtant ſhe ſeized the china with ſuch quickneſs and ſo little caution, that it ſlipt from her fingers and was broken to pieces on the hearth.

They all ſtood for ſome time in ſilent aſtoniſhment; but ſhe who had occaſioned the misfortune was the firſt who recovered her preſence of mind.

"Were we all to cry our eyes out," ſaid Miſs Barnet, "it would not mend the vaſe; but I have thought of what will ſave us from blame."

She immediately ran out of the room, and returning a few minutes after with a cat in her arms; "Be gone into the garden," ſaid ſhe to the young lady and Edward; then throwing the cat on the floor, ſhe ſhut the door of the room, and followed them into the garden.—"Now," cried Miſs Barnet, ready to burſt with laughter, "my mother will think her favourate cat has broken the vaſe—and, if ſhe ſhould make any farther inquiry, you have only to declare, as I ſhall do," added ſhe, looking at Edward, "that you know nothing at all of the matter."

"I hope," ſaid he, "that your mother will aſk no queſtions of me on the ſubject."

"But in caſe ſhe ſhould, you will tell her plainly, that you know nothing about it."

Edward made no anſwer.

"You will tell her that you know nothing of the matter!" repeated Miſs Barnet, with a raiſed voice.

"I will tell her no ſuch thing," ſaid Edward calmly.

"Why not?" cried ſhe.

"Becauſe, I will not tell a lie," anſwered he.

"Do you mean to ſay that *I* would?"

"I meant to ſay what I repeat, Miſs Louiſa," replied Edward, "that for my own part I will not."

"Did you ever ſee ſuch a ſurly companion?" ſaid Miſs Barnet to Miſs Fuller, as he withdrew.

"O! yes, very often, my dear," replied the other, ſmiling.

"Well, you may laugh as you pleaſe," rejoined Miſs Barnet, "but what he ſaid implied that he thought *me* a liar."

"What he thinks, my dear Louiſa, is of little importance," replied Miſs Fuller, "provided we are ourſelves conſcious that we are incapable of falſehood."

At this remark, Miſs Barnet's face became of the deepeſt ſcarlet.

When Mrs Barnet returned to the drawing room, ſhe ſaw her favourite vaſe lying in pieces on the hearth. The cat ruſhed out as ſoon as the door was opened; but as Mrs Barnet had left Edward reading in the room, and was certain no cat was there when ſhe left it, ſhe could not avoid ſuſpecting, that he had accidentally broken the vaſe, and had afterward ſhut up the cat in the room to prevent the ſuſpicion from falling on himſelf. This betrayed a degree of cunning which ſhe did not like, and of which ſhe had never before ſeen any inſtance in him. She was ſenſible, that to ſome people a trick of that kind would appear only a proof of cleverneſs in a boy of his age; but ſhe had hitherto conſidered him as ſuperior to a practice of this nature; and ſhe felt, that if it were clear that he had ſtooped to uſe it, ſhe never would be able to eſteem and love him as ſhe had done. And ſo painful is it to a benevolent mind, to have favourable impreſſions of any one removed, and to receive unfavoureble ones in their place, that Mrs Barnet would much rather have loſt the value of a hundred ſuch vaſes, than have had her good opinion of this poor

boy

boy thus diminiſhed. She gathered up the fragments of the vaſe, and locked them in her cupboard, without making any inquiry. At dinner ſhe remarked, that Edward was graver and more penſive than uſual, which increaſed her ſuſpicions.

She ſaid nothing all that day, in the hopes that he would ſpontaneouſly acknowledge what he had done.—She contrived opportunities of being alone with him, and behaved in the moſt affectionate manner; addreſſing him even with more frankneſs and affability than uſual, on purpoſe to ſmooth the way to the avowal which ſhe ſo much deſired; and at night ſhe retired to her bed-chamber chagrined becauſe he had not made it, and vexed at thinking this poor friendleſs boy leſs worthy of her eſteem than ſhe had formerly imagined.

Next day being alone with him, ſhe ſaid, a little unexpectedly, "Pray, Ned, do you know any thing of the breaking of the vaſe which ſtood on the drawing room chimney?"

Unwilling to tell what he knew, and confuſed with the queſtion, he made no anſwer.

His uneaſineſs and confuſion confirmed her ſuſpicions.

"When I left you reading in the room the vaſe was whole, was it not?" ſaid ſhe.

"Yes it was," anſwered he.

"You were alone," reſumed ſhe, "there was *not ſo much as a cat in* the room with you when I left it," added ſhe.

Greatly diſtreſſed at this remark, the boy ſeemed more and more confuſed.

"Accidentally breaking a piece of china," continued Mrs Barnet, "is a trifle; the means which ſeem to have been uſed to conceal it, I view in a different light, and it gives me pain to think that thoſe I love are capable of artifices which betray cunning at the expence of candour."

Edward wiped the tears from his eyes, but ſaid nothing.

"I thought you too wiſe and manly to be cunning," continued Mrs Barnet.

The boy ſeemed much diſtreſſed.

"Perhaps," reſumed Mrs Barnet; "you with to give ſome explanation of this matter."

"I can give no explanation," ſaid he, in a voice half ſuppreſſed with anguiſh;—"but—but—Oh! I am very unhappy."

"Nay, my dear," ſaid Mrs Barnet, moved by the diſtreſs in which ſhe ſaw the boy; "there is no need to be *very* unhappy; it was natural for you to imagine I ſhould be uneaſy at the loſs of the vaſe, and you could not bear, I ſuppoſe, to be thought the cauſe of my uneaſineſs.—I am ſure ſuch a thought would give you pain."

"Indeed it would," ſaid he, in a voice hardly articulate.

"When ſuch an accident happens again, believe me, my dear, your beſt courſe will be to avow it honeſtly, without racking your invention for devices to conceal it."

Having ſaid this, Mrs Barnet left him in more uneaſineſs of mind than he had ever felt before.

Notwithſtanding the palliating terms ſhe had made uſe of, Edward ſaw that Mrs Barnet was much diſpleaſed; and it coſt him a ſevere ſtruggle to bear the idea of her diſpleaſure; but when he reflected that he could not do himſelf juſtice without accuſing the daughter of his benefactreſs, and conveying to the mother's breaſt more vexation than ſhe felt in thinking him blame-worthy, he determined to remain ſilent, and actually returned to ſchool without giving the leaſt hint on the ſubject.

Miſs Barnet remained a month with her parents after Edward left them; her reſentment againſt him increaſed, he had made her look mean in her own eyes. She felt therefore a diſagreeable ſenſation as often as his name was mentioned. When this is the caſe, few have the candour to conſider whether it originates in any fault of their own,

or of the perſon at the mention of whoſe name the diſagreeable feeling recurs, perhaps Miſs Barnet was incapable, coolly and conſiderately, of doing an eſſential injury to this boy; but the painful ſenſation which ſhe felt when ſhe thought of him, made her without deſign ſpeak of him ſometimes in an injurious ſtile, and at one time in the hearing of her mother.

Mrs Barnet hinted at the unfairneſs of taking advantage of his abſence to inſinuate any thing to his prejudice; adding, that Edward was incapable of ſpeaking againſt people in their abſence.

"What is nearly as bad, however," replied the daughter; "he is capable of ſpeaking with inſolence and injuſtice to people *in their preſence.*"

"Edward is as incapable of the one as the other," ſaid Mrs Barnet.

"He told me the other day, in pretty plain terms, that *I* was liar," ſaid the daughter.

Miſs Barnet gueſſing by her mother's look that ſhe did not believe her, ſaid, "Miſs Fuller was preſent when he did ſo."

Some viſitors being at the inſtant announced, the dialogue between the mother and daughter ended.

Although Mrs Barnet did not immediately reſume the ſubject of this converſation with her daughter, ſhe reſolved to inveſtigate the truth of the accuſation; and for that purpoſe, after making a viſit to a family in the neighbourhood, ſhe called one forenoon on Miſs Fuller, who had returned to her father's houſe, and aſked whether ſhe had ever heard Edward ſay any thing unbecoming to Louiſa. The young lady declared ſhe never had. "He may have been provoked to it," reſumed Mrs Barnet, "but I have reaſon to think he behaved with ſome degree of inſolence in your preſence." Miſs Fuller now recollected what had paſſed when the vaſe was broken, and related the whole candidly as it had paſſed.

Mrs Barnet's mind was now divided between admiration of Edward's conduct and uneaſineſs on account of her daughter's; but, eager to remove from the heart of Edward that pain which her miſtaken notion of his conduct had produced, ſhe gave way, in the firſt place, to the moſt pleaſing emotion of the two, and immediately after arriving at her own houſe, ſhe wrote to him as follows:

"My dear Edward,

"You have reaſon to be hurt at the ſtyle in which I ſpoke to you a little before you left us, and perhaps it ſtill gives you pain to think that I diſapprove of any part of your conduct, even while you are conſcious that my diſapprobation proceeds from miſtake: I haſten therefore to inform you, that the miſtake, which, from the moſt honourable and delicate motives, you left me in, exiſts no longer. I am fully acquainted with every particular of the affair to which you muſt know I now allude; the whole of your behaviour, on that occaſion, and your motives for not explaining it to me, are now evident, and render you dearer to me than ever.

"From the pleaſure you now feel you will be confirmed in the truth of what I have often told you, that the approbation of a perſon's own mind is the firſt reward for acting honourably; and future experience will convince you, that ſuch conduct, to uſe the words of a man of great wit and great good ſenſe,

——— leaves behind
A laſting pleaſure in the mind,
Which, by remembrance, will aſſuage
Grief, ſickneſs, poverty, and age;
And ſtrongly ſhoot a radiant dart
To ſhine through life's declining part.

That you may perſevere in that virtuous courſe which alone leads to happineſs here, and ſecures it hereafter, is the prayer of, dear Edward, your affectionate friend, JANE BARNET."

This letter operated like a cordial on the drooping ſpirits of Edward, who had begun ſeveral letters containing general aſſurances of his not being ſo much to blame as ſhe might believe; but

but ſtill dreading that they might lead to a diſcovery of Miſs Barnet's behaviour, which he knew would give vexation to her mother, he ended by throwing each letter in the fire.

After Mrs Barnet had gratified her natural diſpoſition to redreſs an injury, and communicate pleaſure by writing to Edward, ſhe remembered that the painful duty of remonſtrating with her daughter remained unfulfilled. Afraid, however, of the effect which ſtating her conduct in the heinous light which it appeared to herſelf might have on the young lady's mind, ſhe ſpoke to her in the following terms:

"I find, my dear, that you entirely miſtook what Edward ſaid, when you deſired him to conceal from me the accident by which the vaſe was broken. It was not unnatural, however, in you, to be provoked with any expreſſion that could poſſibly be conſtrued into ſo foul a reproach as that of lying. The miſapprehenſion of a ſentence has often led people of the beſt diſpoſitions and intentions into error; for, on a very narrow baſis of miſtake, a vaſt ſtructure of falſehood may be raiſed to the ruin of the moſt meritorious character. The quickneſs of your temper, my dear Louiſa, led you into an error, in repeating to me what Edward ſaid, which might have made an impreſſion highly injurious to his character, had it not been prevented by my obtaining a real ſtate of what paſſed from your friend Miſs Fuller, who is ſo partial to you as to take the whole blame of breaking the vaſe on herſelf, declaring that it proceeded from her impatient curioſity to ſee it, and your eagerneſs to gratify her. The loſs of the vaſe, however, gives me little or no uneaſineſs; but had it given me a great deal more, it would have been entirely diſperſed by the ſatisfaction of finding that Edward has not behaved in the manner that ſtruck you, and that you are incapable of *wilful* miſrepreſentation."

Had Mrs Barnet ſtated her daughter's conduct in the worſt light, the young lady was of a temper to have attempted a juſtification; and what we once are led, or provoked to juſtify, we are apt to repeat; whereas, inſtead of attempting any defence or apology, Miſs Barnet was ſo much affected with the delicacy of her mother's remonſtrance, that ſhe ſtood ſpeechleſs, with her eyes fixed on the ground, which Mrs Barnet obſerving, gently ſqueezed her hand and left the room. Miſs Barnet was no ſooner alone than ſhe burſt into tears, and continued weeping for a conſiderable time.

Her heart informed her, that her conduct did not deſerve the palliations it had received; and although nothing pleaſed her ſo much, in general, as her mother's praiſe, yet, on the preſent occaſion, it rather diſtreſſed her, becauſe ſhe was conſcious ſhe did not deſerve it.

HUMOROUS ACCOUNT OF THE WILD ANIMALS PECULIAR TO GREAT BRITAIN.

CONTINUED FROM P. 95.

THE SHARPER.

THIS animal, though very plentiful in England, is not confined to it, moſt parts of the world having ſomething of the kind. But the fact is, and it would be unworthy of the veracity of a naturaliſt, were I to conceal it, that there is ſomething peculiar to this country, which more ſucceſsfully and directly invites this animal. Whether this be in the ſoil, climate, or diet, I ſhall not pretend to determine; but in whatever part of the world a *Sharper* has got ſcent of an Engliſhman, it is rare that he leaves him, before he has devoured him, unleſs ſome perſons acquainted with the nature of the animal, beats him off at firſt, or confines him in a cage ſo as to allow the *prey* time to eſcape.

This animal reſembles the human ſhape in ſome reſpects: but its teeth are long and ſharp, and its claws high-

dangerous. There is a peculiarity too about the legs, which are black, and hence fome naturalifts have denominated them *black-legs*, but I rather chofe to adhere to the old name. Like other animals of the ferocious kind, and which are at the fame time of a cowardly difpofition, their attack is flow, and apparently void of all art: they appear fo gentle, that it feems harmlefs to be familiar with them, and they never pounce upon their pray until they have made quite fure of it, fo as that it cannot efcape, when they devour it with the greateft cruelty, often pretending to let it go, and, when the poor thing thinks it has got off, feizing it again, and not parting with it until completely deftroyed. The *Sharper* is obferved to poffefs that fafcination which certain of the ferpent tribe exert fo fucceifsfully in drawing their prey to them, and in this refpect, at leaft, no animal comes nearer the ferpent than that we are now defcribing.

The common prey of the *Sharper* are the *Dupe* and the *Ninny*, two harmlefs animals, which are fo well known that I need not interrupt my narration with any account of them. There are few families without one of them, tho' I never could perceive of what advantage or amufement they can be to a rational creature. Yet, it is but truth to fay, there are fome people, whofe underftandings are not otherwife to be impeached, who promote the breed of thefe animals with great care, and at an enormous expence. Without expence, indeed, they are reared with great difficulty: but thofe who know of no other way to employ their wealth, may be fure of fuccefs if they beftow it upon the encouragement of this breed. It is, notwithftanding, very filly, and very cruel: it is very filly to take great pains to rear a ufelefs animal, and it is very cruel to rear any animal which, you may be certain, the more pains you take with it, the more eafily does it become a prey to another animal more ftrong and cunning. As foon as a *Sharper* has fixed its claws on a *Dupe* or a *Ninny*, it is impoffible to remove the creature from it without its fuffering very much: for fo cunning are the *Sharpers*, that they feldom attack their prey in public, but wait for an occafion when the *Dupe* is without his leader, and then never fail to fecure him. The *Dupes*, it is almoft needlefs to add, are peculiar to large cities; the *Ninnies* to the country; but I am not quite convinced that this diftinction is precife, and there is often fo much refemblance between them as to render it a difficult matter to fay which is which. The *Ninny* has generally a rougher fkin, and a more fhambling, aukward gait. The *Dupe* is bred up more delicately, has a foft fkin, fkull very thin (which in the other is very thick) and has a mincing, affected gait.

Although I have mentioned thefe two as the chief prey of the *Sharper*, they are not the only objects of his attack. He often invades the focieties of men, and fome perfons, who might have been thought wife enough to be on their guard, have been wounded feverely by the *Sharper*. But in order to explain this, it is neceffary to fay, that befide the advantages which the *Sharper* derives from his cunning, a more fruitful fource of danger arifes to the public, from there being a great variety of fpecies. There are at leaft twenty different fpecies, which may be obferved in the metropolis; and Mr Colquhoun, a very able naturalift, who has lately publifhed a valuable Treatife on *noxious animals*, reckons that there are more than a hundred thoufand individuals belonging to thofe fpecies. Among thefe there muft of courfe be fome againft which it is extremely difficult to guard, even by the utmoft vigilance. Happy would it have been, if, when the country was rid of other wild beafts, fome hundred years ago, fuitable and fimilar rewards had been offered for the extinction of the whole breed of *Sharpers*. At this day, it is thought very extraordinary that our government is fo remifs on this point, and the gentleman I have juft men-

mentioned, has enlarged on this subject with such convincing arguments, that while I take a pleasure in referring my readers to what he advances, I am hopeful it will not lose its effect, in a certain quarter where it is intended chiefly to operate.

The *male* and *female Sharper*, differ from the order of nature with respect to other animals, in outward appearance. It is well known to persons conversant with natural history, or who have paid occasional visits to his Majesty's menagerie in the Tower, that the male of all animals is the handsomest, and the female the ugliest and least picturesque. The case is precisely the reverse with the animal we are speaking of. The male is always ugly, often to a degree of deformity, and there is something remarkably ferocious and forbidding in its looks, especially in those which have been fed upon the *turf*, a very common diet with them: whereas the female is generally uncommonly beautiful and fascinating, and thereby more dangerous even to persons of wisdom and caution, who are not in the habits of distinguishing animals from one another, unless by certain general and prominent features. Now these general features will not answer in the present case, as without a very nice inspection, the figure of the *female Sharper* will be found very much to resemble that of a woman, and particularly of those unhappy women who infest the streets, and appear objects rather of pity than terror. It must be observed, that all the *Sharpers* select *young* objects as their prey. The old, it is supposed, are not so easily caught, or so tough that it is impossible to make an impression on them. There may occasionally be exceptions, but upon the whole, this may be set down as a general rule.

As to taming the *Sharper*, or making him domestic and harmless, it is so impossible, so beyond all means hitherto tried, that a man would risk the imputation of extreme folly who would attempt it. The breed must be wholly extirpated, or there can be no safety for the public; but as there seems a reluctance in government to issue general orders on this subject, it may not be amiss, in the mean time, to offer a little cautionary advice, by which the attack of the animal may be warded off.

Long experience and observation has convinced me that this animal, however wild and ferocious, however greedy of prey, will seldom return to a second attack, if the first has been repelled with firmness and spirit. In order to do this, the animal must be driven away, even with some cruelty, if necessary; and so much depends on this, that the laws of self preservation will amply justify the party attacked. This is not, however, to be expected from the *Dupes* and *Ninnies*; and therefore persons who are fond of them, must watch them narrowly, and if they see them in danger of the *Sharper's fangs*, beat him off, and deliver him up to the *hunters*, if there be any at hand, or, what is perhaps a better way, draw its teeth, and cut off its claws, the only weapons of its mischief, and shew them to the *Dupe* or the *Ninny*, which will so frighten them that they will ever afterward be shy of exposing themselves to a like danger. The same may be done to the *female Sharper*; but she is not so easily disarmed, nor is it so easy to keep the prey from her.

These cautions will be found of some use. Much we cannot expect from them; men cannot live in a perpetual watchfulness; moments of carelessness and inattention will happen to the wisest; and therefore, as these animals are the cause of so much mischief, it would be extremely desirable to have them entirely extirpated.—In the mean time, it is very fortunate that they frequently fall into the hands of their pursuers, and this frightens the whole breed so as to make them disappear for a considerable time. After their fears abate, they begin to creep out of their holes, chiefly in the night-time, and, as we have it from very ancient and respectable au-

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thority, "*devour widows houses.*" The *Sharper*, I ought to mention, is a gregarious animal, and this makes the danger the greater; a flock of them will often devour a whole village, and laft fummer there were herds of them who migrated from London toward the feacoaft of Kent and Suffex, where they did great damage, particularly among the poor fick people, who had gone *for health* to Margate, Brighthelmftone, and other places. In the winter, they burrow chiefly in large cities, where their fafety arifes either from their having a number of holes and corners, into which they creep unperceived, or from their aflociating together fo as to be formidable. In all places, the *night* is peculiarly favourable to them, and hence they are frequently heard to articulate the words *glim* and *darkee*, which in their language are fuppofed to mean *night* and *darknefs*, or, as fome think, *light* and *darknefs*. But their language is fo ftrange a jargon, that very few but themfelves underftand it, although a very ingenious antiquary *, now deceafed, publifhed a dictionary of it a few years ago. It refembles moft the Yahoo language, fo ably explained and illuftrated by the Dean of St Patrick's.

Very few of the *Sharpers* are obferved to die a natural death, a circumftance which likewife ferves to diftinguifh them from other animals. But this is perhaps to be accounted for upon common principles. It muft be obferved, that the natural weapons of this animal, its fangs and talons, though originally projecting from the body, at length turn inward, and devour the creature itfelf, which people often expreis in a metaphorical way, by faying that it is caught in its own net. To catch it in any other way is attended with fome difficulty, and a conliderable length of time. I have known an old *Sharper* run about town for leveral years with a rope about its neck, without the perfons who had hold of it being able to finifh the buiinefs. And even then, not lefs than *twelve men* are neceffary, and thefe muft have the advice and counfel of fome perfon who is a *judge* of the nature of the animal, and the manner of killing it.

Such are the few particulars I have been able to collect, relative to the hiftory of this animal. There may be other circumftances, which more attentive or more experienced obfervers will, I hope, contribute. In the mean time, I flatter myfelf that I have given the fulleft account hitherto publifhed, and more than enough to contradict the unguarded aflertion, "that there are no wild animals in this country." I have deferibed but a few indeed, but it is my purpofe to fend you the hiftory of more, as foon as I have collected materials worthy of the fubject, and of your miicellany. Meantime I am, Sir,

Your humble fervant,

ZOOLOGICUS.

* Captain Grofe.

THE RIGHT OF SANCTUARY CONSIDERED.

BY JOSEPH MOSER, ESQ.

EADWINE, a Monk of the Benedictine Order, about the year 1049, became Abbot of Waltham after having fucceeded Wolnoth, who died the fame year *.

It was in the time of this Eadwine that the church of St Peter, notwithftanding it had been repaired by St Dunftan †, was pulled down, and rebuilt much more fplendidly by Edward the Confeffor, who endowed it with a large revenue, and granted to it feveral privileges and immunities. Thefe privileges and immunities were, by the piety and munificence of fucceeding Kings, much increafed, and they continued increafing until they were fwept away by the torrent of the times, and fwallowed in the vortex of *reformation* ‡.

* Flete.

† Anno 966.

‡ From evil good may arife, as light from

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Not meaning to enter into a detail of thoſe grants, or a diſcuſſion of theſe privileges and immunities in general, I ſhall wave any obſervations upon thoſe diſtinctive parts of the ſubject, to apply a few to one in particular, namely, the Right of Sanctuary, which, I need ſcarcely inform my readers, was a right inherent to the Church, and a certain diſtrict around it, of protecting, from the Civil Power, fugitives, debtors, felons, and even murderers!

This right, of which there are ſtill conſiderable traces to be obſerved in the privileges annexed to the eccleſiaſtical edifices of Italy, it is probable might, in the two firſt inſtances, be ſometimes beneficial, though the two latter were certainly abuſes of it.

The Right of Sanctuary I preſume to have every where ariſen, as it did in the ſcite of Weſtminſter Abbey, under the Chriſtian diſpenſation*, from the canonization of the founder of any Cathedral, and from the high veneration in which his memory was held; inaſmuch as it was ſuppoſed that his merits were a ſufficient expiation for the ſins of thoſe that ſought the protection of his ſhrine.

In this *enlightened* age, at this ſceptical period, a period when not only the out-works of ſuperſtition are levelled to the ground, but the fortreſs of Religion is attacked by an engine which is termed *philoſophy*, though it ought in reality to be deemed *atheiſm*, there are, perhaps, many who will ſmile at an author who aſſerts, as I do, that a regard to particular cuſtoms, a reverence for particular perſons and places, had, and ever will have, a good effect upon the minds, and conſequently the morals, of the great maſs of the people.

Thoſe that have conſidered the ſplendid decorations of the heathen temples, far ſuperior in magnificence and architectural elegance to any which the Chriſtian world has produced, the mythological influence of their gods, the myſtical denunciations of their oracles, their ſtatues, pictures, ſacrifices, every thing that could attract the attention, alarm the conſcience, or captivate the ſenſes, will not wonder at the tenacity with which the votaries of paganiſm adhered to the ſentiments promulgated in them, nor at the ſlow progreſs which the *true* (for it was a long ſeries of years before it became the *Catholic*) religion made, while its doctrines were delivered by plain, though holy men, and its edifices as unadorned as its tenets.

That Chriſtianity did at length diſperſe the miſt of darkneſs and error in which the firſt ages were enveloped; that the ſun, which had ſo ſlowly riſen, ſhone, and with reſplendent luſtre pervaded a conſiderable portion of the world, is as certain as that the tide of human affairs, which in its ebb carried off the ſuperſtition of paganiſm, as its reflux brought with it a ſuperſtition, or, as it has been termed, a zeal, perhaps but little inferior in its ardour, is to be lamented. This revolution from one violent prejudice to another proves, that to influence the paſſions of mankind toward a particular object, has by Legiſlators, in all ages, been thought neceſſary. The Heathens found, in the worſhip of their numerous deities, a ſource of jo[illegible] of admiration, of terror. Their p[illegible]ſts were ſanctified; and the very

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darkneſs. That the Reformation, whether produced by revenge, piety, or avarice, has, in its effect, been as beneficial to the civil as religious liberties of this country, no one will attempt to deny; but yet as, by comparing with former events, the mind is ſhocked at the thought of the confuſion and diſtreſs which the general plunder of eccleſiaſtical eſtabliſhments muſt, in thoſe times, have created; ſo, from recent tranſactions, we are inclined to believe, that the torn and diſlipidated revenues of the Church have been, and may be, worſe applied than they were even prior to that period, when the enormities of the Monks rendered them ſo deteſtable to the *pious* and *diſintereſted* courtiers of Henry the Eighth.

* The tradition that, during the time of the Romans, a temple dedicated to Apollo occupied the place now filled by Weſtminſter Abbey, is more generally known than credited. It is not, therefore, worth our while to inquire whether the Right of Sanctuary exiſted and was annexed to that ſpot before the Chriſtian diſpenſation.

verge of their temples held as ſacred as the altar or the adytum. This ſuperſtition, if it can be ſo termed when under the guidance of the Chriſtian ſyſtem, has been frequently applied to turn the minds of the people to the beſt of purpoſes; and although its violent ebulitions are, as I have juſt obſerved, to be in ſome reſpects deplored, it ſeems, viewing it with even the moſt unfavourable aſpect, to be far more innocent than the modern philoſophy, which we have had *late* and *lamentable* experience is only calculated to incline them to the worſt.

Among the many veſtiges ſtill remaining, which ſerve to ſhew the vaſt influence of the See of Rome in former times, the Right of Sanctuary preſents itſelf firſt to our conſideration; a right which, with reſpect to debtors, although not at preſent annexed to the Church, is not even now entirely abandoned in this country*.

This right, before any part of it is commended, ought to be examined with ſome accuracy; for although it might, and unqueſtionably did, occaſionally afford protection to the innocent; yet where one inſtance of this ſort occurs, we have, perhaps, an hundred which mark the monaſtic boundaries as a harbour for guilt, a retreat for the fraudulent debtor, the robber, or the aſſaſſin. Many who have written in favour of ſuch aſylums have pleaded preſcription for their eſtabliſhment, which, in a ſeries of years, grew into cuſtom; and at length what had from ancient times been cuſtomary, became, if not legally ſanctioned, of equal force with law.

From the earlieſt ages we have great reaſon to believe, that the places conſecrated to religious worſhip were conſidered as under the protection of the preſiding deity, whoſe influence firſt attracted criminals, and other perſons unhappy in their circumſtances, to ſeek the ſhelter which his ſacred pale afforded. What religion firſt prompted, policy adopted. The idea of throwing a greater weight into the ſcale of eccleſiaſtical eſtabliſhments was, by the firſt founders of empires, conſidered as the ſtrongeſt cement wherewith to bind the paſſions of a rude and diſſolute multitude. Buildings, whoſe extremeſt environs were conſecrated with every rite, calculated to impreſs the human mind with awe and veneration, were therefore erected. When Cadmus founded Thebes† he ſaw the neceſſity of an eſtabliſhment of this nature; and Hercules ordained that the Temple of Pity at Athens ſhould be an Aſylum for fugitives. After-ages extended the privileges of protecting ſuppliants and offenders, both from the force of arms and the force of law, to other temples, ſtatues, ſhrines, and ſacred groves. The fane of Diana at Epheſus‡ was a refuge for the diſſolute of Aſia Minor, of which the city in which it ſtood was the emporium. When a malefactor fled from juſtice, and had the good fortune to arrive within the verge of this temple, it was conſidered as an act of ſacrilege to force him thence; and the heavieſt denunciations, nay puniſhment, followed the very attempt; and if he

* At a period conſiderably antecedent to the Reformation, the circuit of St Paul's was a Sanctuary for debtors and diſſolute perſons. This right continued to appertain to White Friars till the year 1697, when, by an act of William and Mary, the preamble of which ſtated, "That this place was become a notorious receptacle for men of deſperate fortunes, who, with force and violence, defended themſelves againſt the law and public authority," it was totally aboliſhed. The mint in Southwark once poſſeſſed the ſame privilege, ſaid to have been derived from being the ſcite on which the Duke of Suffolk's houſe (Charles Brandon) formerly ſtood. The protection of the Board of Green Cloth has ceaſed but a few years; and the rules of the King's Bench and Fleet priſons remain to this hour.

† 1519 years before Chriſt.

‡ This temple, rendered famous from its having been a ſecond time deſtroyed by fire on the very day on which Alexander the Great was born (400 years before the birth of our Saviour), was built in the name, and at the expence of all Aſia Minor. Pliny ſays, what is not very probable, that two hundred and twenty years were employed in the erection of it.

was

was killed in any ſtruggle which might enſue, his blood, it was thought, would be upon them and their poſterity for ever who were concerned in ſuch a violation.

Were it neceſſary, many other inſtances might be adduced to ſhew that the Grecians in general, and the Athenians in particular, thought thoſe profane, and held their perſons and crimes in equal abhorrence, who had violated the Right of Sanctuary.

In Syria, the temple of Apollo was long held in veneration for poſſeſſing a protecting power, as was that of Venus Paphia in Cyprus.

Nor were the Egyptians, who ſhould doubtleſs, in this reſpect, have firſt been mentioned, leſs jealous than the Greeks of a violation of that aſylum which even the verge of their temples afforded. Thoſe dedicated to Oſyris, or Iſis *, were, from the influence of theſe ſuperior deities, ſuppoſed to poſſeſs a ſanctity ſuperior to thoſe of Apis the Bull, Ibis the Stork, the Dog, the Hawk, the Crocodile, or the Cat †.

When Romulus determined to found the city of Rome, he, in order to people his new eſtabliſhment, firſt projected an aſylum between two woods (before the buildings were begun), to which Virgil alludes ‡. He afterwards opened a Sanctuary for the reception of all fugitives, which was called the Temple of the God Aſylaus §, into which all that flew for protection were received. In this place the ſervant that had abandoned his maſter, the debtor who ſought refuge from his creditors, and even the murderer who had eſcaped from juſtice, were protected againſt the power of the magiſtrate. Under ſuch auſpices, it is no wonder that the city ſoon grew populous, or that an empire ſhould be founded from the dregs and refuſe of mankind, the outcaſts of every nation around. Our only aſtoniſhment muſt ariſe from its attaining ſuch a height of magnificence and celebrity, conſidering the materials of which it was originally formed. But even here, perhaps, the curious inquirer might, through the long ſeries of Roman triumphs and imperial grandeur, trace, in their plans of univerſal conqueſt, ſome veſtiges of the vices of thoſe firſt founders of the Empire, and be induced to pauſe before they beſtowed upon *republican virtue* that unqualified praiſe which it has at times excited.

Be this as it may, the ſanctuary eſtabliſhed by Romulus was conſidered as ſo advantageous to the ſtate, that the ſenate, in after ages, not only adopted his plan, but extended it to a degree that ſeemed to keep pace with the extenſion of their dominions.

The Jewiſh *Aſyla*, or cities of refuge, ſeem to be a far wiſer and better eſtabliſhment than any of the preceding *. The protection which they afforded did not embrace the murderer. They only ſheltered in their arms thoſe who had been guilty of man-ſlaughter; who had accidentally ſhed blood; and continued their defence of them no longer than until they could be turned over to the Civil Power; at moſt till the cauſe was brought to a fair and impartial hearing. The Horns of the Altar afforded no protection to Joab †; and Athaliah ‡ was led out of the Temple to receive the reward of her treaſon.

Having ſhewn the nature of theſe aſylums among the Grecians, Egyptians, Romans, and Jews, and, in the beginning of this ſpeculation, conſidered their riſe in the Chriſtian world, it would extend this erection far beyond my original plan were I to advert to the different deſcriptions of thoſe that have,

* Thought to be the ſun and the moon.

† "Quis neſcit, Volufi Bythinice, qualia demens
Ægyptus portenta colat?" Juven. Sat. 15.

‡ "Lucum ingentem quem Romulus acer Aſylum reſtuit."

§ Plutarch.

* The Senate, or Magiſtrates, were in Iſrael bound to prepare the way to theſe *Aſyla*; and in ſeveral places of the road to ſet up in writing "Refuge, Refuge," for the purpoſe of directing the fugitive.

† 1ſt King, chap. ii. verſe 28 to 34.

‡ 2d King, chap. xi. verſes 15 and 16.

or do ſtill exiſt in the European ſtates. I ſhall therefore confine my future purſuit to the inveſtigation of one that was, perhaps, in its time, conſidered, not only by this nation, but by a long ſeries of Popes, as of the firſt importance; I mean the ſanctuary appertaining to the Cathedral Church of St Peter's, at Weſtminſter.

(*To be continued.*)

FOR THE SCOTS MAGAZINE.

ON THE ORIGIN AND CONSEQUENCES OF GAMING.

WHATEVER be the theories of the philoſopher, or the dreams of the ambitious, reſpecting the foundation of human happineſs, the univerſal experience of the world demonſtrates, that it conſiſts not in poſſeſſion, but in the indulgence of hope, and the activity of purſuit. Every perſon feels that in a ſtate of liſtleſneſs and inactivity, his mind is oppreſſed with an inſupportable languor and fretful impatience. Even when an object is preſented to his wiſhes, but which does not require a conſiderable exertion of ingenuity to attain it, nor rouſes alternately the paſſions of fear and hope in the purſuit, the poſſeſſion is undervalued, and the pleaſure it conveys is tranſitory and inſignificant. During inaction a man is made ſenſible of his own weakneſs and inſignificance. He ſcarce enjoys the conſciouſneſs of exiſtence. His powers are relaxed, and he ſhrinks in deſpondence, from every occupation which demands his active exertions. He trembles at every commotion around him; for he is conſcious that every ſhock and oppoſition he meets with, would overpower and ruin him. The man of buſineſs, on the contrary, is not only happy in the ſtrenuous application of his talents, but enjoys an elevated ſenſe of dignity among his fellows, and of independence above the rubs of fortune. Oppoſition, inſtead of intimidating, ſerves only to rouſe and invigorate him. Even the ſchool-boy, though his ſpirits are humbled under a ſenſe of dependence, yet, at times, enjoys the ennobling ſatisfaction that ariſes from ſurmounting diſagers, and being victorious over difficulties. He now feels that he is ſomething in the world, his ambition takes fire, and his imagination roams abroad in queſt of adventure, and is active in forming ſchemes of toil and danger which may gain him applauſe among his contemporaries. Ambition, in its purſuits, is not always mercenary. It ſeldom regards the utility or even the real value of its object: but applies its energy to whatever appears to miſer our ſkill, or baffle our expectations. Hence the purſuit is proportioned, not to the intrinſic importance of the prize, but to the degree of our ability. Whatever calls forth only an inferior degree of vigour and ingenuity is laughed at and ſpurned away: like the hound which has been trained to the chace of the wild boar, who will not deign to purſue the hare or the fox. Were we to ſearch for the final cauſes of theſe principles in our conſtitution, we would diſcover them fraught with wiſdom and goodneſs. If man is deſtined to improve his nature, and to fit himſelf for a higher ſtate of exiſtence, the connection eſtabliſhed between labour and enjoyment is benevolent and wiſe. When he enters into the world, he has every thing to learn. His powers are ſtill in embryo; they have only the capacity of improvement. Nature leaves the character and ability to be formed by habit, by the choice of objects, and the induſtry with which they are purſued. She even ſeldom determines by any inſtinctive propenſity in what courſe our exertions ſhall be directed. Hence ariſes that infinite variety of purſuits in which the inhabitants of the world are engaged. The efforts of curioſity are purſued with ardour in every poſſible direction; and the inventions of genius and art are multiplied in every channel, which convenience or mere fancy can ſuggeſt.

ſuggeſt. Hence nature has been traced without any conſideration of intereſt, through all her ſecrets, and the whole world has been new modelled by the art of man.

As exerciſe is the ſchool of intelligence and ingenuity, a world where variety and change are predominant features, is well fitted for the habitation of a being of an active and improveable nature. Every material which is to ſupply his accommodation is given him rude and unformed, that on it he might exerciſe his talents and perſeverance. Perhaps nowhere is the ſpontaneous productions of the ſoil fit for his maintenance. Induſtry is the price he muſt pay for the ſupply of his wants. Or where Nature has been ſo liberal to man as to ſupercede activity, ſhe has proportionably ſtinted his ingenuity, and, of conſequence, his mind has become aſſimilated to the herd of the field. Man appears every where the mere creature of his ſituation and the occaſions of his exertion: as the ſheep, which aſks of heaven only its graſs and a cover, is infinitely inferior in boldneſs and dexterity to the beaſts of prey. Both the kind and the degree of improvement which the mind acquires, is ſuited to the nature and force of the calls to action which our ſituation preſents. It would be evidently prepoſterous to expect to find the abilities of an experienced general, in the naked ſavage ſtretched on the bank of the Oroonoco, who revels in all the luxuries of nature, with a mind debaſed to mere animal ſenſibility. But nature is not ſo fatally profuſe to the bulk of mankind. She has fitted MAN, her favourite, with the talents of an artiſt; therefore ſhe has not ſupplied him with finiſhed productions to ſuperſede the uſe of his talents; but ſuch a lot as may afford the ſcholar the ſeverities and diſcipline of a ſchool. Every circumſtance which contributes to our ſecurity and comfort, demands ſerious reflection and perſevering induſtry. But we find, from experience, that the proviſion for our external accommodation does not employ the whole of our time; many leiſure hours remain on our hand ready to be filled up. Here the calls of mere pleaſure and fancy ſucceed to thoſe of neceſſity, and obtain an equal meaſure of attention and application. Theſe are conſiderably diſtinguiſhed from the engagements of neceſſity. To them there is no definite limit, nor any determined direction. They follow the dictates of an enlightened underſtanding and delicate taſte, or the more tyrannical maſters of faſhion and caprice. It would be happy for our real improvement in knowledge and refinement, that the former and not the latter were the guides of our leiſure hours. Theſe employments are ſtiled amuſements, not becauſe they require a leſs meaſure of ſerious application, but becauſe they are matter of free choice. They are not impoſed by the ſtern hand of neceſſity, and therefore are conſidered gentlemanny and polite. But the ſeverities of the chace, and the anxiety of the gaming-table, ſhow how ready and ingenious the idle are to deviſe a courſe of vigorous occupation, in order to give exerciſe to their talents, and food to their hopes.

The reflections already thrown out, will ſerve to explain the foundation of that ſpirit of *gaming*, which is prevalent among all nations. Some, however are much more addicted to this paſtime than others. We find it to be a characteriſtic feature in ſavage tribes, both in America and the old world *; eſpecially in thoſe who have no other ſerious employment than war and the chace. Their ſituation, which is full of hazard and danger, prevents them from indulging their fancy or curioſity in the refinements of taſte or ſcience. The ſpirit foſtered by their occupation was that of ſeriouſneſs, independence, and magnanimity. Every thing that engages the more refined and light part of our conſtitution was, of conſequence

* Robertſon. Tacitus.

ſlighted; and the care of it devolved on the weaker and enſlaved part of the community. The management of the land and cattle, the concerns of the houſe and family, were delegated to the infirm, the women and the ſlaves. But the ſtern ſavage could not be always engaged in the bold purſuits of war and the chace. And he was ignorant, or rather he diſpiſed the varied reſources of more poliſhed nations, in the improvement of their underſtanding and fortune, in the pleaſures and follies of ſocial life. His leiſure hours then, if not interrupted by ſome call of danger and alarm, were devoted to ſleep and ſloth. All day ſtretched under a tree, or cowring over a fire, his mind becomes languid and lethargic, incapable of being roufed by trifling amuſements. His fierce and ſullen temper required ſome manly and violent incitement to rouſe it to action, in which anxiety, danger, and alarm were mingled. This alone was calculated to reſtore a briſk flow of emotions to his mind; and was ſuited to his wild romantic diſpoſition, unaccuſtomed to occupations of regular induſtry. What then could be more adapted to ſuch a being than GAMING, in which an anxious ſtate of ſuſpenſe between profit and loſs, honour and diſgrace, is involved. Here the attention is kept on the ſtretch, all the ingenuity requiſite in the offenſive and defenſive war, is called forth on the table. Hope and fear, emulation and ſhame, alternately ſway the breaſt: and the man who at other times is ſilent, phlegmatic and indifferent, here becomes noiſy, impatient, and frantic with zeal. When we read then, that the deſperate gameſter hangs for whole days over a board, gives himſelf wholly up to the deciſion of fortune, and ſtakes not a bit of property merely, but, in a wild emotion of hope, his perſon and liberty, on the laſt throw of the dice, we can give eaſy credit to the ſtory by tracing it to original principles of the human mind. Wherever appeals to luck and fortune are introduced, then ſuperſtition ſteps in to aid the paſſions of fear and hope. We are too ſtrongly impreſſed with the belief that every effect muſt have a cauſe, to be able to lay it aſide in a matter ſo intereſting. In conſequence of this principle, we fancy a neceſſary connection to hold between events the moſt caſual. The goddeſs Fortune, therefore, is believed by the keen gameſter, to hover over the board, to pitch into the box, and to direct the dice at every throw. Withal ſhe is capricious. Uncommon geſtures, ſtrange words, particular kinds of ratties and throws, are tried ſucceſſively to engage her favour. May not this be a great mean of foſtering the ſpirit of ſuperſtition, and the belief of incantations? We know that, in barbarous countries, the conjuror, or prieſt, in order to increaſe his treaſure and influence, aids this ſpirit of ſuperſtitious gaming, and preſcribes a ſolemn match of play, as the beſt means of appeaſing the Deity, and of reſtoring the ſick and infirm to health and ſpirits.

It is chiefly in cold or hardy climates, that this amuſement is carried to exceſs. The gentler and feebler ſpirits of warm regions do not require ſuch powerful ſtimuli to prevent the mind from ſtagnation. Muſic and dancing, and the ſocial affections, ſufficiently warm and intereſt their hearts. We are more at a loſs to conceive how gaming is ſo prevalent in countries highly civilized, and which have taſted the ſweets of ſocial intercourſe, and the pleaſures of imagination and of knowledge? Theſe would occupy a leiſure hour with more honour and ſatisfaction than the cards and dice, which ſet the parties at variance, ſhut up their mouths and wrangle their hearts, at the precipitate loſſes they ſuſtain. Perhaps the practice has been preſerved and rendered venerable by cuſtom, like ſome other Gothic remains derived from our rude forefathers. However this be, gaming is now conſidered, like every other branch of artificial honour, the buſineſs of a gentleman; and as this piece of politeneſs

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is eaſily attained, the train of gambling implements, whether conſiſting of faro tables, horſe races, cards, dice, bets, ſtakes, and jobbing, is becoming every day more numerous and more common. It has been matter of frequent ſurprize, how the mind ſo eaſily impoſes on itſelf; and though the chances are on a rational calculation doubly againſt us, yet if we be told that we have the chance of gaining a thouſand pounds, with the thouſandth part of that ſum, deſire ſhuts up every faculty of reaſon, and hope predominates over every cold and diſpaſſionate conſideration. Though the odds be 10,000 to 1 againſt us, we are ſo partial to ourſelves, as to be eaſily perſuaded that fortune will be on our ſide. Were we to inquire into the effects which this reigning ſpirit of gambling has on our induſtry and moral conduct, we are afraid nothing but vice and licentiouſneſs would ſuggeſt themſelves, and extract from our pen an uninterrupted ſtream of declamation and cenſure. In a political view, however, it is apprehended to be uſeful: though perhaps, in the long-run, when the effects of idleneſs, hard drinking, and the temptations to dishoneſty, are conſidered, even the Miniſter himſelf will condemn it. Here then, as in all other caſes, utility and morality go hand in hand. A neighbouring nation, once involved above all others in gambling, has diſplayed ſuperior wiſdom in prohibiting the lottery, and in the time to come the bleſſed effects of it will eminently appear. A.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCOTS MAGAZINE.

SIR,

IN the account of Burns, given in your Mag. for January laſt, there is an act of generoſity omitted, which does much honour to his feelings, and which I think would not have been overlooked by the writer, had he known the circumſtance. In the year 1788, when viſiting the Canongate church yard, the grave of Robert Fergufſon was pointed out to him, having no ſculptured ſtone to tell of its inhabitant. Mr Burns at his own expence, erected a monument over the remains of poor Fergufſon, with the following inſcription:

No ſculptur'd marble here, nor pompous lay,
Nor ſtory'd urn, nor animated buſt;
This ſimple ſtone, directs pale Scotia's way
To pour her ſorrows o'er her poet's duſt.

Edin April 1797.

TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY OF SCOTLAND.

CONTINUED FROM P. 288.

COUNTY OF AYR.

THE county of Ayr is bounded on the South by the ſhires of Wigton and Kirkcudbright; on the weſt by the Iriſh channel, and the frith of Clyde: on the north by the ſhire of Renfrew; and on the eaſt by the ſhire of Lanark. From its extreme points, it meaſures upwards of 50 miles, and where broadeſt, about 20 miles. The great road from Greenock to Portpatrick goes through the county, and is of vaſt benefit to it. The general appearance of the coaſt is rich and fertile, adorned with planting, and the ground well cultivated. The interior is hilly, bakeſt, and barren. The river *Ayr* taking its riſe from the mountains on the eaſt, gives its name to the county, and in a manner divides it into two parts. The diſtrict lying on the north of the river is called *Kyle* or *Cuningham*. From Loch Doon iſſues the river *Doon*, which runs nearly parallel to the river Ayr, forming another diſtrict, the moſt ſoutherly, called *Carrick*.

BALLANTRAE. This pariſh, ſituated in the extremity of the county of Ayr towards the ſouth, is nearly 10 miles ſquare, and contains 770 inhabitants. The ſea waſhes it for about 10 miles on the weſt. The ground riſes gradually

dually from the ſhore, which is bold and rocky, and terminates in that extenſive range of hills which ſtretches acroſs the ſouth of Scotland, from the Iriſh ſea to the Frith of Forth. Agriculture is in conſiderable forwardneſs; the arable land giving two guineas per acre. The rent of the whole is about 2000l. There is a good ſalmon fiſhery upon the river Ardſlincher, upon which the village of Ballantrae ſtands.

CALMONELL. This pariſh is about 18 miles in length, and 7 at an average in breadth, and contains 1100 inhabitants. On the coaſt there is a conſiderable extent of flat country, but inland it is hilly and bleak. In this tract, there is a good deal of natural wood, ſome of which grows to a great ſize. The higheſt hills are Carleton, Knockdaw, Knocknounan, and Knockdolian; the three former being about 1550 feet, the laſt, which is the moſt beautiful and remarkable, near 2000 feet above the level of the ſea: It is of a conical ſhape, and is a conſpicuous land-mark for veſſels at ſea. Land, in culture, gives from twenty to forty ſhillings per acre; the whole producing about 3000 per annum. The remains of the ancient caſtles of Carleton, Knockdaw, Kirkhill, and ſeveral others, with the number of cairns in different places, and the veſtige of two Britiſh camps, demonſtrate that this pariſh muſt have been once more populous, and the ſcene of more activity and intercourſe than at preſent.

GIRVAN. This pariſh is pretty extenſive, being 9 miles in length, and from 2 to 6 in breadth; it contains about 1730 inhabitants. There is about 8 miles of ſea-coaſt; the greater part preſents a bold rocky ſhore; the ground riſes pretty much towards the interior, but the hills are green, and afford good paſture. There is coal here, but none wrought; limeſtone and ſhell-marl in plenty. Some ſpecimens of gypſum have been found here. There are ſeveral veſtiges of camps and cairns ſtill pointed out. Girvan is a ſea-port ſituated at the mouth of the river of the ſame name, and has a pretty good harbour.

MAYBOLE. This pariſh is 12 miles long and about 7 broad, from E. to W. The number of inhabitants is 3000. There is a conſiderable woollen manufactory in the village of Maybole. In the rivers Doon and Girvan, which water the pariſh, there are plenty of excellent ſalmon and trout.

NEWTON UPON AYR. This is a ſmall pariſh adjoining to Ayr, extending both ways to little more than a mile, and containing about 1400 inhabitants. Lying on the river Ayr and the ſea coaſt, it is moſtly flat, but the ſoil is ſandy and unproductive. Newton is a ſea-port town, with a tolerably good harbour, employed chiefly in the coal trade.

AYR. The pariſh of Ayr where broadeſt is about 3, and where longeſt about 4 miles; but its form is quadrangular. The town contains 3000, and the country part of the pariſh about 1100 inhabitants. Ayr, the county town, and a preſbytery ſeat, ſtands on the river of that name, near its influx into the Atlantic ocean. The country is upon the whole flat here, and well improved. There is both coal and marl in the neighbourhood, and two ſmall lakes ſtored with pike and eels.

DUNDONALD. This pariſh extends along the ſea-coaſt about 8 miles, and contains nearly 1320 inhabitants. The ſoil is various, and the general appearance hilly. It yields about 6,000l. Sterling yearly of rent. The Claven hills run from S. eaſt to N. weſt about 3 miles. On the tops of many of theſe are evident marks of art. Tradition ſays, that they were occupied by Norwegians. The proſpect from theſe hills is very grand and extenſive. On the Troone, the weſtern promontory of the pariſh, Mr Fullerton the proprietor has erected an elegant temple.

MONKTON AND PRESTICK. This pariſh is nearly a ſquare of 3 miles, and produces about 2000l. of rent yearly

yearly. The number of inhabitants is 720. The inland part is in general a rich loam, or a clay. Towards the ſea the ſoil is light and ſandy, but great part is incloſed and ſubdivided.

SYMINGTON. This pariſh is about 4 miles long, and 1¼ broad, and contains upwards of 600 inhabitants. It is beautifully diverſified with hill and dale, but the ſoil is rather barren, being chiefly a ſtiff clay. The road from Portpatrick to Glaſgow and Edinburgh paſſes through this pariſh. The proſpects from it are remarkably fine. There is both coal and lime in the pariſh.

ST QUIVOX. This is a ſmall pariſh on the ſea coaſt, containing about 3,500 acres of ground, and adjoining to the old bridge of Ayr. The inhabitants, including thoſe of Wallace Town, (1000) amount to 1450.

KIRKMICHAEL. The length of this pariſh is 9, and the breadth 4 miles; the number of inhabitants upwards of 950. The general appearance of it is hilly; excepting the banks of the rivers Doon and Girvan, the ſoil is barren. The rent is from 3s. to 10s. per acre. The minerals are coal, lime-ſtone, ſtone and ſhell marl, and freeſtone.

COYLTON. The whole of this pariſh almoſt is flat ground, and upon the rivers Ayr and Kyle it is very fertile, yielding about 2000l. Sterling per annum. Coal, marl, and lime, are found here. The extent of this pariſh is 7 miles long, and about 2 broad; the number of inhabitants 670. There are three conſiderable freſh water lakes in this pariſh. Tradition derives the name from King Coilus, who fell in battle, and was buried at the church of Coylton.

DAIRYMPLE. The greateſt length of this pariſh is 7, and greateſt breadth 2 miles; it contains nearly 380 inhabitants. The banks of the river Doon, and the flat grounds, are beautiful and rich; the hills are green, and of no great height. The minerals here are limeſtone, marl, and freeſtone.

DAILMELLINGTOUN. This pariſh is 6 miles long, and from 2 to 3 broad; the number of inhabitants is about 680. On the banks of the river Doon, and around the village, the ſoil is rich, and well cultivated. The high ground is barren. In the low ground there is great abundance of coal, and free ſtone and iron-ſtone. Specimens of lead have been found in ſome of the hills, but never has been wrought. Near the village there is a beautiful moat, ſurrounded with a foſſe; and there are many cairns of ſtones in different parts of the pariſh.

STAIR. The extent of this pariſh is 6 miles long, and 2 broad, and contains 520 inhabitants. The ſoil is a ſtiff clay, excepting the banks of the rivers, but is in a rapid ſtate of improvement. There is abundance of coal wrought here. On the lands of Dalmore ſpecimens of copper and of antimony have been found. On the ſame grounds a conſiderable quantity of black lead (molybdena) has been diſcovered, and upon trial found to anſwer equally well with that at Whitehaven. The water-of-Ayr-ſtone, a ſpecies of whetſtone, is well known.

RICCARTOUN. This pariſh is 6 miles long, and 2 at an average in breadth, containing upwards of 1000 inhabitants. The ground is all incloſed, and, excepting a moſs, well cultivated, the rent is from 15s. to 30s. per acre, amounting in whole to upwards of 4000l. per annum. There is plenty of coal and lime, and being in the immediate vicinity of Kilmarnock, a ready market is found for all kinds of produce.

CRAIGIE. This pariſh is 7 miles long, and upwards of 1 broad, and contains 700 inhabitants. The ſoil is in general light and gravelly, and the hills afford good paſture. The greateſt part is incloſed and cultivated. There is coal and lime over the whole pariſh. Land rents here from 10s. to 20s. per acre; the whole producing about 4000l. per annum.

KILMARNOCK. The extent of this pariſh is 9 miles in length and 4 in breadth, containing 6,776 inhabitants.

The

The country here is pretty flat and level, declining gently to the south. The town is of importance in regard to manufactures, which employ from 2000 to 3000 hands. The woollen, chiefly carpets, and shoe trades, are the principal. A considerable quantity of coal is raised for exportation; it goes chiefly to Ireland.

Galston. The parish of Galston is about 13 miles in length, and 5 in breadth, and contains upwards of 1570 inhabitants. The higher grounds are light and gravelly, the low grounds are loamy and pretty rich; in general upon a red or blue clay bottom. The rent of the whole is between 5000l. and 6000l. sterling. The Irvine is the most considerable river which waters this parish. There is a considerable quantity of wood in the parish, some of which grows to a very great size. There is both coal and lime here. Patie's Mill, in this parish, claims the honour of giving the name to that beautiful song, "The Lass of Patie's Mill."

Irvine. The parish of Irvine extends from S. West to N. East 5 miles; its greatest breadth is 2, and contains about 4,500 inhabitants. Being on the sea coast, the greater part of the soil is light and sandy; inward it tends to clay. The policy around the Earl of Eglintoun's seat about a mile from the town, and that of Bourtreehill, belonging to Mr Hamilton, render the appearance of the country very beautiful. About half a mile below the town there is a pretty good harbour, from which are exported the manufactures of Paisley, and coals to Ireland. The sect called Buchanites, took its rise in this parish in the year 1783.

Stewarton. This is an extensive parish, being upwards of 10 miles in length, and about 4 in breadth. The general appearance is flat, though in some places it rises to hills. The soil in the low part is a stiff clay; the total rent is about 7000l. Sterling *per annum*. The number of inhabitants is nearly 3000. There is both coal and lime in the parish. The manufacture of bonnets has been carried on here for upwards of a century.

Dreghorn. The parish of Dreghorn is 9 miles long, and at an average 2 broad, containing about 830 inhabitants. The surface is upon the whole flat; there is a gradual rising from the sea on the West to the Eastern limits. The soil nearest the sea is light and sandy; on the banks of the rivers Irvine and Annock it is a deep loam, and towards the East it is clayey; but the whole is arable, excepting a few acres; the average rent is about 22s. per acre. The country is beautified by clumps and rows of planting, and is upon the whole in a thriving state. There is a coal work here of considerable magnitude, but no manufactures.

Stevenston. This parish extends along the northern shore of the bay of Ayr upwards of 5 miles, and contains 2,425 inhabitants. The surface of the interior part is finely varied by rising grounds, and the prevailing soil is clay. The lower part is level and sandy; the whole is in a rapid state of improvement, and yields at present about 12000l. Sterling per annum. The views from this are very fine. There is an old ruin called Kirrila Castle, belonging formerly to the Earls of Glencairn. There is great abundance of coal and lime here, also many beds of remarkably fine sand-stone. The Stevenston coal mines are the northern limit of the coal counties on the West of Scotland. Saltcoats stands upon the confines of this parish.

Kilmarnock. This parish consists mostly of hill ground. The banks of the river Carnock are however rich, and well cultivated. The number of inhabitants is about 700. The castle of Kilbirny is the ancient residence of the Earls of Crawford. There is a very extensive policy, and a fine loch belonging to it. The castle was repaired about 40 years ago, but soon afterwards unfortunately burnt down, and has stood in ruins ever since.

(To be continued.)

ACCOUNT OF THE SHEPHERDS OF THE PYRENEES.

BY MADAM DE GENLIS.

AFTER having traverſed part of our ſouthern province, I arrived at that great chain of mountains which ſeparates us from Spain. I ſtopt in a charmingly ſecluded ſpot, where I took a handſome little lodging; and here I determined to paſs the ſummer. My houſe, ſituated on the declivity of a verdant mountain covered with trees and tender plants, was ſurrounded by rocks, and ſprings of the moſt tranſparent water. It commanded a full view of a vaſt plain interſected by rivulets formed by the torrents precipitated from the mountains. My only neighbours were huſbandmen and ſhepherds; and here I indulged myſelf in meditation, uninterrupted by the tumultuous buſtle of cities, the dinning noiſe of horſes, carriages, and public criers, plaguing us only with the vain agitations of intereſt and pride, and the turbulent activity of frivolity, or of vice and paſſion. In my peaceable cabin I heard only the majeſtic voice of nature, the attractively grand and rapid noiſe of caſcades and cataracts, the lowing of the flocks ſcattered through the meadow, the ruſtic ſounds of the flageolet and bagpipe, and the rural airs which the young ſhepherds ſang, ſeated on the brinks of rocks. In this delightful country, I employed the greateſt part of my time in walking; I rambled over all the ſurrounding mountains, and often met flocks tended by children or youths; but the oldeſt ſhepherds were only fifteen years of age. I remarked that the elder lads were always on the mountain tops, while the younger children, not yet daring to clamber up the ſteep and ſlippery rocks, confined themſelves for paſturage to verdant ſpots of a leſs difficult acceſs. Along with the deſcent, the ſize and age of the ſhepherds decreaſes; and on the little hills that ſurround the plain, there are none above eight or nine years of age—I was led to ſuppoſe from this remark, that the flocks in the valley were fed by children younger, or at leaſt as young as thoſe on the little hills. In this perſuaſion I one day addreſſed myſelf to a little boy:—

"Do you ever feed your goats below?"

"I will do ſo one day (replied he, ſmiling); but it will be a long time yet, and I muſt behave well on my way."

"What do you mean?"

"It is firſt neceſſary I ſhould go higher up, then work with my father; and when I am ſixty years of age I will tend in the valley."

"So the ſhepherds of the valley are old men then?"

"Certainly: our elder brothers are on the high hills, and our grand-fathers are in the meadows."

When he had ſaid theſe words, I left him, and deſcended into the delicious and fertile valley of Campan. I obſerved only the numerous flocks of oxen and ſheep at firſt; but my attention was ſoon drawn to their venerable keepers, ſeated or extended at their length, on the borders of the meadows. I experienced a painful ſenſation on viewing theſe deſerted old men, left to themſelves in this ſolitude; I had juſt been contemplating a very different, a very chearful picture, mountains populated with young, nimble, and romping inhabitants; the happy abode of innocence and gaiety, where the only echoes reſounded the joyous ſong, the innocent laugh, and the pleaſing chorus of the bagpipe. I had juſt quitted a ſcene, than which nothing can be more delightful on earth; infancy and early youth; and it was not without emotion I found myſelf among the old men. The very near affinity of the ſituations of the oldeſt to that of the youngeſt, afforded a contraſt the more ſtriking, as the good old men, ſupinely extended on the graſs, appeared plunged in deep and profound reveries; their ſad tranquillity appeared to be dejection, and their meditation and ſadneſs, proceeding from their being cruelly deſerted. They were alone, far from their children.—I pitied them, and advanced towards them, indulging a mingled feeling of compaſſion and reſpect.

I walked on till I found myſelf oppoſite to one of the old men, whoſe appearance attracted all my attention; his figure was noble yet gentle; his hair, which was of the moſt dazzling whiteneſs, floated in ſilver locks on his large and finely-rounded ſhoulders; his very features betrayed candour and goodneſs; the ſerenity of his forehead, and his expreſſive looks, beamed forth the unalterable tranquillity of his ſoul.—He repoſed himſelf on a ſeat cut out of the rock, at the foot of a mountain, ornamented with moſs and ſhrubbery. A prodigious maſs of rock jutting out from the top of the

mountain, hung perpendicularly over him, forming, at an elevation of more than two hundred feet, a kind of rural canopy, which protected his venerable head from the overpowering heat of the ſun. The rocks were covered with natural garlands of periwinkle ivy, and of roſe-coloured bindweed, which ſcattered themſelves in tufted ſheaves and grouped with as much elegance as profuſion. At ſome paces diſtance, two willows intermingling their flexible branches, overſhadowed a fountain which fell from the mountains; foaming impetuouſly at its ſource, it bore every thing before it that dared to diſpute its paſſage; but becalming in its courſe, it glided paſt the old man's feet, and after carrying its tranſparent body through the graſs and flowers, in many a ſerpentine turn, at laſt loſt itſelf in gentle murmurs in the bottom of the valley.—With the old man's permiſſion I ſeated myſelf beſide him, and relating to him what the little ſhepherd of the mountains had told me, begged he would explain his meaning to me.

"In all ages (replied the old man) the inhabitants of theſe countries have dedicated to a paſtoral life thoſe periods of their life-time that ſeemed moſt adapted to it—youth and old age; infancy, having juſt emerged from the boſom of nature; and old age, on the point of returning to their mother duſt. The children, as you have ſeen, conduct their flocks to the heights; there it is they acquire that vigour, that agility, and that hardineſs, for which the mountain children are ſo famous. They exerciſe themſelves in clambering up the rocks, and leaping the rapid brooks; they accuſtom themſelves to look without horror on the amazing height of our precipices, and often will they fly on the brinks of the cleft rocks to bring back a ſtrayed favourite goat. At fifteen, they leave the paſtoral ſtate, and become husbandmen; and the young man, proud to be thought fit to work with his father, abandons the mountains without regret, and delivers his crook, with joy, into feebler hands; henceforth the mattock and the ſpade are more worthily to exerciſe his nervous arms. He takes, however, a ſad laſt look of what till now had been his only care—his flock; and with emotion receives his faithful dog's final careſſes. Amongſt the labourers he remains till age deprives him of his wonted ſtrength, and when the lately vigorous arm almoſt forgets to handle the ſpade, he cheerfully takes again his crook and ſcrip, and in theſe meadows ſuffers the evening of his days gently to paſs away."

He ceaſed:—a momentary gloom diffuſed itſelf over the ſerenity of his brow. I ſaw, that the time when old age had obliged him to devote himſelf for ever to his flock, was a painful recollection: He was ſilent—I dared not queſtion him further—but ſoon compoſing himſelf, he added, "our old age is a ſtate of happineſs, our days paſs on in the ſofteſt tranquillity."

"But (interrupted I) do not you, who have been accuſtomed to hard labour, find your time hang heavy on your hands in ſuch a ſedentary life?"

"No: (replied he) for even my ſedentary life is of uſe. Dullneſs would overpower me were I to idle my time away at home, for he that is of no uſe to others, is the greateſt incumbrance to himſelf; but ſeated on theſe rocks, looking after my flocks, when I reflect that once I laboured the ground and followed the plough as my children do now, the thought makes me happy and pleaſed with my peaceable condition. And beſides, is it not natural to ſuppoſe, that after fifty years hard work, I muſt find pleaſure in paſſing my days at eaſe in theſe meadows?"

"And in this ſtate of inaction you ſay you never experience your time hang heavy on your hands?

"How can I, when ſurrounded with ſo many objects, which every one of them awaken ſome dear remembrance in my breaſt? Over all this amphitheatre of mountains have I bounded in my youth; from hence I can recollect, by the clumps of fir and maſſes of rock, the places I uſed to frequent; my weak ſight does not comprehend every thing which your eyes command, but my memory traces the cherithed ſpots, and my mind intereſts itſelf arduouſly in the recollection. Imagination places me on the top of thoſe cloud-bedecked mountains, and memory renews my walks through windings where the path is ſuddenly broken off, and here again renewed in ſteep and ſlippery maſſes. Now impulſed by tottering memory, I abandon myſelf to the very brink of a tremendous waterfall, or ſuppoſe myſelf ſtaggering on the top of a precipice. I

ſhudder

ſhudder in recollection: my heart palpitates as violently at finding again the road I had loſt, as ever it did in the ſpring-time of my life. Thus, without ever quitting my place, I find myſelf on the mountains, and I experience all the emotions, all the pleaſures of youth."

Juſt as my venerable companion concluded, the ſound of a flageolet, on the top of the mountain behind us, drew our attention.

"Ah! (ſaid the old man, ſmiling) there is Tobie on the rock; he is breathing my favourite air—how often have I played it when at his age!"

He beat time by gentle noddings of his head, and gaiety ſparkled in his eye. I aſked him who this Tobie was.

"He is a young ſhepherd (ſaid he) in his fifteenth year; he loves my little Lina; ſhe is of the ſame age. Oh! that I might but live to ſee them united! This is the hour that our daughters come every morning to ſee us, and bring us refreſhments: and Tobie always brings his goats at that time to the rock, under which he knows I am ſeated."

While he ſpoke, I obſerved a great number of young women at the other end of the valley, who nimbly advanced, and ſcattered themſelves in the plain; at almoſt the ſame inſtant all the mountain ſhepherds appeared on the ſteep ſides of the rocks which ſurrounded us. Some of them had advanced to the very brink of the crumbling rocks, and filled us ſpectators with terror, leſt the ground they ſtood upon ſhould give way under their feet; others had climbed up high trees, that they might ſee the long-expected yet certain arrival of the amiable and charming troop. When the happy hour came, the mountain flocks were left to wander at liberty, and every body on the mountains and in the plain were in motion; curioſity, growing love, and paternal tenderneſs, produced a general commotion among the ſhepherds, both young and old.

The young women, ſeparating in the meadows, ran ſeeking their grandfathers, to preſent them with fruits and cheeſe, which they brought in handſome oſier baſkets, and preſented to them with the moſt undiſguiſed affection. I admired the grace and tripping ſtep of theſe daughters of the Pyrenees, every one of them remarkable for their beauty and handſome ſhapes; but my heart was ſpecially intereſted in favour of Lina. While ſhe was yet an hundred paces from us, her grandfather pointed her out to me in a groupe of young women, telling me ſhe was *the handſomeſt*; nor did paternal love flatter her; ſhe was indeed charming. She threw herſelf into her grandfather's arms, who claſped her tenderly to his breaſt, and then ſhe went to get her baſket from one of her companions. She lifted her timid eyes to the ſummit of the mountain, and Tobie on the neareſt jut of the rock caught her attention. She beſtowed on him a look, which he had been impatiently waiting for ſince the riſing of the ſun, and which ſweetly rewarded him for all the labours of the day. Tobie threw down a noſegay of roſes, which fell ſome paces diſtant from the little groupe of which Lina was a member. She reddened, and dared not to lift the proffered preſent. The old man enjoyed her confuſion; and the girls, laughing in good humour, though not without a little tincture of archneſs, exclaimed, "*It is for Lina; it is for Lina;*" and ſhe was condemned to take it up. With a trembling hand, ſhe pinned it near her heart; and, to hid her embarraſſment, ſhe came and took refuge under her grandfather's rock, and ſeated herſelf by him. I left them to enjoy a converſation of tenderneſs and love, and with my head full of the reſpectable old man, Lina, and Tobie, I traced my way back to my little dwelling, thinking with myſelf, if happineſs exiſts on earth, theſe are the manners, and theſe the ſentiments, which ſhould inſure its poſſeſſion.

. . . . . As I have already related, the life of a Pyrenean peaſant is divided into three different periods, and each period has its occupations. A ſhepherd from his eighth to his fifteenth year; he then becomes a huſbandman; and in his old age tends the flocks in the valley. The day on which, during his lifetime, he experiences moſt pleaſure, is that on which he is raiſed to the rank of a labourer, which they celebrate with great ſolemnity. As ſoon as he has completed his fifteenth year, his father goes in ſearch of him, to conduct him to the fields, or to the vineyard, the cultivation of which is henceforth to be his care; and it is a feaſting and a memorable day to the young man's family. I had a great inclination to ſee this rural ceremony; and

I imparted my wiſh to the good old man, Lina's grandfather, who told me that Tobie would, in a month, quit for ever thoſe mountains, and that rock to which his love for Lina had ſo often conducted him. A very ſingular circumſtance rendered the ceremony ſtill more intereſting; the father of Tobie was that day to leave the huſbandmen, and enter among the old ſhepherds, and he was ſeventy years of age. He had four ſons, the youngeſt of whom was thirty, beſides Tobie, who was the fruit of a ſecond marriage.

The day fixed for the ceremony at laſt arrived, and I was on the plain three hours before ſun-riſe. I found all the old ſhepherds aſſembled at the foot of the mountain where Tobie kept his ſheep; and we were ſoon after joined by a multitude of peaſants and village maids of all ages, drawn together by curioſity. Lina placed herſelf juſt by me, under the care of her mother; and there were doubtleſs many there, who were leſs intereſted in the ſcene that was going forward than ſhe. The crowd preceded Tobie's father, who advanced ſlowly in the middle of his four ſons, carrying a ſpade, and leaning on the eldeſt. When he came to the foot of the mountain, every body ſtood back to make way for him, but the old man ſtopt, and looking ſadly on the rugged road which led to the ſummit of the mountain, ſighed:

"I ought, (ſaid he) according to cuſtom, to go myſelf and ſeek my ſon; but I have ſeventy years on my head, and I muſt wait till he comes to me!"

"We will carry you, my father!" exclaimed his children.

The multitude applauded the propoſition; the old man ſmiled; and his ſons, forming a kind of ſedan with their entwiſted arms, lifted him gently up, and immediately began their march. The village troop remained in the plain; but I followed the old man, as I wiſhed to be witneſs of his interview with Tobie. We went ſlowly, and from time to time he made his ſons ſtop to draw breath, and to give him an opportunity of ſurveying thoſe places, where his memory retraced him ſcenes long ſince gone. He wept to hear the ſhrill ſounds of the bells ſuſpended from the necks of the mountain ſheep and goats. He would tell us what things were next to ſalute our eyes; but alas! time had almoſt always deſtroyed them, or changed their entire appearance. Every thing we met, intereſted both his paſſions and his curioſity; and the further we advanced, his countenance became more lively and more animated; joy ſparkled in his eyes, and he ſeemed to be perfectly regenerated in breathing again, though for the laſt time, the pure air of the mountains.

We were now at the end of our walk, or rather clamber, and his ſons placed the old man on a rock; but he aroſe, and, leaning on the ſpade he ſtill held in his hand, rapturouſly enjoyed the extenſive proſpect ſpread before him. Tobie inſtantly abandoned his flock, and threw himſelf at his father's feet: the old man embraced him with emotion.

"Hold, my ſon, (ſaid he) take this ſpade, which has ſerved me upwards of half a century; endeavour to keep it as long! That I might preſent it to you with my own hands, I have prolonged the period of my labours, painful, indeed, at my age. I quit this day, for ever, our cultivated fields and our vineyards; but thou art going to replace me!"

Saying theſe words, the old man gave Tobie his ſpade, and fought his crook from him in exchange.

"Oh! my father, (ſaid the young man, much affected,) receive likewiſe this faithful dog, which hath obeyed me ſeven years, that it may in future follow and defend you, and, by ſo doing, be of more ſervice to me than it has ever been."

The old man could not prevent ſome tears from ſtealing down his venerable cheeks; he careſſed the dog that his ſon preſented to him, while the animal ſeemed to expreſs its fear of changing its maſter, by clinging to the embraces of Tobie. We again deſcended in a body, and joined the villagers; when the day was concluded with a rural ball, and I had the pleaſure to ſee Tobie dance with Lina.

The day following, I returned to the meadow, and ſaw my two good old men. I paid the valley ſeveral ſubſequent viſits, and always found them, the one ſeated beſide the other, under the rock, talking of their youth, but generally of their children. Lina brought always their fruits and cheeſe at the accuſtomed hour; and, although Tobie was there no more, ſhe looked always at the rock. She obſerved the tender and mutual friendſhip of the old men;

and

and it induced her to draw a happy preſage.

I have ſince learnt, that the old men enjoyed the happineſs of celebrating the nuptials of Tobie and Lina; and that Lina is at this day a tender mother, and a happy wife.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

Indian Antiquities: or, Diſſertations relative to the ancient Geographical Diviſions, the pure Syſtem of Primeval Theology, the grand Code of Civil Laws, the original Form of Government, the widely-extended Commerce, and the various and profound Literature of Hindoſtan: compared throughout with the Religion, Laws, Government, Commerce, and Literature of Perſia, Egypt, and Greece. The whole intended as introductory to, and illuſtrative of the Hiſtory of Hindoſtan, upon a comprehenſive Scale. Vol. VI. Containing Diſſertations on the Origin of the Druids, and the ancient Commerce of Hindoſtan and Britain. 8vo. 10s. 6d.. *Faulder.*

AFTER having, in the former volumes, ſhown the debaſement of the primitive patriarchal doctrines and rites in Aſia, the author here conducts his readers, with the firſt colonies, to European climes, and diſplays the evident, but degenerate, remains of the grand fabric of Aſiatic theology in the remoteſt parts of the weſt; remarking, as he proceeds, thoſe peculiar correſpondent circumſtances in language, manners, and ſcience, that ſo irrefragably prove the deſcent of all nations from the great family that anciently tenanted the plain of Shinar. There is, indeed, ſuch a ſurpriſing ſimilarity here exhibited, between nations removed at ſo immenſe a diſtance from each other, that there ſeems to be no other way of accounting for it; and thus the grand hypotheſis on which the Indian antiquities were originally founded, whatever may be the errors and inadvertencies of particular intervening parts, is proportionably corroborated; the *concluding* anſwering to the *primary* ſections. There are other parts of Europe that might have afforded as ample a field for the diſplay of Celtic rites and monuments, particularly Gaul; but Mr Maurice has, with a patriotic zeal, rendered his inquiries more intereſting to his countrymen, by directing his obſervations principally to the Druids of Britain, and the maſſy fragments that yet remain in theſe iſlands, the magnificent teſtimonies of their ſkill in aſtronomical, architectural, mechanical, and geometrical ſcience.

The ſecond part of this volume diſcuſſes the ancient commerce of Hindoſtan, carried on before the Chriſtian æra, without which, as the author ſeems to have conceived, a work ſanctioned by the patronage of a great commercial company, could not be terminated with either propriety or utility. The very remote periods, however, to which he points his obſervations, are of neceſſity extremely barren, from the failure of thoſe authentic ſources whence alone genuine information could be drawn.

God promiſed to enlarge Japhet, and allotted to his poſterity *the Iſles of the Gentiles*. In ſtrict conſonance with this promiſe, Mr M.'s hypotheſis brings the Japhetic tribes, north about, to their appointed poſſeſſions in the weſtern world; and with them the prieſts of the Indian Buddha, whoſe religion, in thoſe remote æras, had infected the whole of the higher Aſia, extending its influence from the hills of Thibet to Siberia, on the one hand, and to the Indian peninſula on the other. Coins and ſignets, diſperſed through all that region of Aſia, and inſcribed with Sanſcreet characters, and bearing the evident ſymbols of the Indian mythology, are brought in teſtimony of this wide diffuſion of the Brahmin faith. It was itſelf a mixture of the true Patriarchal religion with the Sabian ſuperſtition, or worſhip of the hoſt of heaven, firſt introduced at Babel by Nimrod, the Aſſyrian Belus; and ſuch it was found in the Britiſh iſlands, and in Gaul. Mr M. has taken Mr Mallet, the northern antiquarian, for his guide through theſe hyperborean regions, in which it was neceſſary to diſplay the progreſs of that Aſiatic colony, and the veſtiges of that religion; and having at length, by gradual ſtages, conducted them to Britain, he proceeds to exhibit fur-

further proofs of his hypothesis, deduced from the resemblance which the first Celtic inhabitants of Britain bore to the Brahmins of Asia, so far as regards their *language*, their *civil customs*, and their *religious rites*.

"It is remarkable (says our author) that the Sanscreet word *gate*, or *gaut*, a barrier or passage, is to be found in the same sense in Ramsgate as in Balagate, and the most natural derivation I know for the word age, is the Sanscreet *yug*, or *period*.

"The term *Dia*, in Welsh, God, and in Cornish, Diu, is the very same word used in India for the celestial deities, who are called *Dives*, or *Devates*; and the reader's surprize will, perhaps, be not a little excited, when I inform him, that Colonel Vallancey, well known for his researches into old Irish literature, told Sir William Jones, that *Crishna*, the name of the Indian Apollo, is actually an old Irish word for the Sun."

The following information is important:

"In the ancient geographical records of India, we find the whole country denominated after Cush, the eldest son of Ham, its domestic appellation being Cusha-Dweepa, and we know that the inhabitants of the northern district were anciently called Cuthæi. We find again Raamah, the fourth son of that Cush, is the Indian Rama, renowned first as a conqueror, and afterwards as a God, throughout the whole extent of that vast region; and we discover his last son Nimrod, or Belus, in their Bali, the Baal and Bel of their neighbours.

"Baal seems to have been equally known as an appellative of the Sun in Britain as in Asia; for Toland, in his History of the Druids, tells us that the fires which flamed, on May-eve, at the top of the ancient Carns, or Druid-heaps of stones, in honour of the Sun, were called *Bealtine*, or the fires of Belus*. The term Druid itself is, doubtless, derived from the Celtic Dru, or Deru, an oak; and it is remarkable, that, in Welsh, Deruen and Derwen still preserve the same signification."

The uniformity of the following custom in India and Britain is remarkable:

"The first of April was anciently observed in Britain as a high and general festival, in which an unbounded hilarity reigned through every order of its inhabitants; for the sun at that period of the year entering into the sign Aries, the new year, and with it the season of rural sports and vernal delight, was then supposed to have commenced. The proof of the great antiquity of the observance of this annual festival, as well as the probability of its original establishment in an Asiatic region, arises from the evidence of facts afforded us by astronomy. Although the reformation of the year by the Julian and Gregorian calendars, and the adaptation of the period of its commencement to a different and far nobler system of theology, have occasioned the festival sports, anciently celebrated in this country on the first of April, to have long since ceased; and although the changes occasioned, during a long lapse of years, by the shifting of the equinoctial points, have in Asia itself been productive of important astronomical alterations, as to the exact æra of the commencement of the year; yet on both continents some very remarkable traits of the jocundity, which then reigned, remain even to these distant times. Of those preserved in Britain, none of the least remarkable or ludicrous is that relic of its pristine pleasantry, the general practice of making *April Fools*, as it is called, on the first day of that month; but this, Colonel Pearce, in a paper published in the second volume of the Asiatic Researches, has proved to have been an immemorial custom among the Hindoos, at a celebrated festival holden about the same period in India, which is called the Huli festival. I shall insert the account in the Colonel's own words: "During the Huli, when mirth and festivity reign among Hindoos of every class, one subject of diversion is to send people on errands and expeditions, that are to end in disappointment, and raise a laugh at the expence of the person sent. The Huli is always in March, and the last day is the general holiday. I have never yet heard any account of the origin of this English custom; but it is unquestionably very ancient, and is still kept up even in great towns, though less in them than in the country: with us, it is chiefly confined to the lower class of people, but in India high and low join in it; and the late Suraja Doulah, I am told, was very fond of making Huli fools, though he was a Mussulman of the highest rank. They carry the joke here so far, as to send letters making appoint-

* Toland's History of the Druids, p. 67.

ments;

ments, in the name of perſons who, it is known, muſt be abſent from their houſe at the time fixed upon; and the laugh is always in proportion to the trouble given*.

"The leaſt inquiry into the ancient cuſtoms of Perſia, or the minuteſt acquaintance with the general aſtronomical mythology of Aſia, would have taught Colonel Pearce, that the boundleſs hilarity and jocund ſports prevalent on the firſt day of April in England, and during the Huli feſtival of India, have their origin in the ancient practice of celebrating with feſtival rites the period of the vernal equinox, or the day when the new year of Perſia anciently began.

"The Indians now, indeed, begin their year on the eleventh of April, and the Perſians have adopted, in their civil concerns, the Mahommedan mode of computation; but both nations probably, in the remote ages to which we allude, began their years when the Sun entered into the ſign Aries, and the ancient Perſian coins ſtamped with the head of the Ram, which, according to D'Ancarville, were offered to Gemſhid, the founder of Perſepolis, and firſt reformer of the ſolar year among the Perſians, are an additional demonſtration of the high antiquity of this feſtival. It is ſtill obſerved, in that country, under the title of *Nauras*, a word which means the firſt day of the year."

The Voyage of Nearchus from the Indus to the Euphrates; collected from the Original Journal, preſerved by Arrian, and illuſtrated by Authorities Ancient and Modern; containing an Account of the firſt Navigation attempted by the Europeans in the Indian Ocean. By William Vincent, D. D. 4to. 1l. 7s. Boards. *Cadell jun. and Davies.*

THOUGH it be very true, that much of this volume is employed in diſquiſitions in which few will be anxious for accurate information, yet there are to be found in it ſeveral intereſting hiſtorical facts, and ſeveral curious critical obſervations. The character of Alexander, which is very juſtly drawn, exhibits him not only as an irreſiſtible conqueror, but as a profound and preſcient politician. His conduct towards the countries he ſubdued; his plan for the foundation of the Alexandria of Egypt; and the ſcheme of that navigation, which is the ſubject of the work before us, are evidences of this which no reaſoning can ſubvert. To bring the wealth and commerce of the Indies within the reach of his European ſubjects, by the intervention of the Perſian Gulph, was an undertaking not merely of unexampled magnanimity, but of uncommon ſagacity and diſcernment. The greateſt difficulty aroſe from the choice of a proper perſon to conduct ſo new and perilous an enterprize. The voluntary offer made of his ſervices to Alexander by the Author of the Journal removed every delay and obſtruction. The men deſtined to the embarkation no longer conſidered the expedition as deſperate, when they found a man ſo much in the King's favour and confidence was to be the commander; and one whom they knew he would not have expoſed to inevitable danger. Alacrity ſucceeded to terror: the ſhips were equipped, not only with what was neceſſary, but with great ſplendor, the officers vying with each other who ſhould collect the beſt men for the ſervice, and have his complement moſt effective. Succeſs was anticipated, and deſpair ſubdued."

The circumſtances that occurred to Nearchus on his coming to land on the fleet's arrival at the mouth of the Anamis, and on his firſt interview with the King, are intereſting and pathetic.

"One of the parties he ſent out to explore the country, accidently fell in with a ſtraggler, whoſe dreſs and language diſcovered him to be a Greek; tears burſt from their eyes upon ſeeing once more a native of their own country, and hearing once more the ſound of their own language. They learnt that he had not long left the army, and that the camp was at no great diſtance. They inſtantly hurried the ſtranger with all the tumult of joy to Nearchus; in his preſence the ſame happy diſcovery was repeated, with aſſurances that the King was within five days journey.

"Nearchus immediately ſet out to find the King, with Archias and five or ſix others; and in his progreſs fortunately fell in with a party from the army, which had been ſent out with horſes and carriages for his accommodation. The Admiral and his attendants, from their appearance, might have paſſed unnoticed. Their hair long and neglected, their garments decayed, their countenance pale and weather worn, and their perſons

* Aſiatic Reſearches, Vol. 2. p. 334.

perſons emaciated with famine and fatigue, ſcarcely rouſed the attention of the friends they encountered. They were Greeks however; and of Greeks it was natural to inquire after the army, and where it was now encamped. An anſwer was given to their inquiry; but ſtill they were neither recognized by the party, nor was any queſtion aſked in return. Juſt as they were ſeparating from each other, "Aſſuredly," ſays Archias, "this muſt be a party ſent out for our relief: for on what other account can they be wandering about the deſert? There is nothing ſtrange in their paſſing us without notice, for our very appearance is a diſguiſe. Let us addreſs them once more."

"Nearchus accordingly inquired which way they were bending their courſe? "We are in ſearch of Nearchus and his people" replied the Officer:—"And I am Nearchus," ſaid the Admiral, "and this is Archias; take us under your conduct, and we will ourſelves report our hiſtory to the King."

"While they were upon their progreſs, ſome of the horſemen, impatient to carry the news of this happy event, ſet off to inform the King, that Nearchus and Archias were arrived, with five or ſix attendants. This ſuggeſted to Alexander, that the reſt of the people had periſhed, either by famine or ſhipwreck. During this interval, Nearchus and his attendants arrived. It was not without difficulty that the King diſcovered who they were, under the diſguiſe of their appearance; and this circumſtance contributed to confirm him in his miſtake; imagining that both their perſons and their dreſs beſpoke ſhipwreck, and the deſtruction of the fleet. He held out his hand however to Nearchus, and led him aſide from his guards and attendants, without being able to utter a word. As ſoon as they were alone he burſt into tears, and continued weeping for a conſiderable time; till at length recovering, in ſome degree, his compoſure, "Nearchus," ſays he, "I feel ſome ſatisfaction in finding that you and Archias have eſcaped; but tell me where, and in what manner, did my fleet and my people periſh?"—"Your fleet," replied Nearchus, "is all ſafe; your people are ſafe; and we are come to bring you the account of their preſervation." Tears, but from a different ſource, now fell much faſter from his eyes: "Where then are my ſhips?" ſays he. "At the Anamis," replied Nearchus, "all ſafe on ſhore, and preparing for the completion of the voyage."—"By the Libyan Ammon and the Jupiter of Greece I ſwear to you," replied the King, "that I am more happy to receive this intelligence than in being the conqueror of all Aſia; for I ſhould have conſidered the failure of this expedition as a counterbalance to all the glory I have acquired."

"Such was the reception of the Admiral.—The joy was now univerſal through the army; a ſolemn ſacrifice was proclaimed in honour of Jupiter the Preſerver, of Hercules, of Apollo the Averter of Deſtruction, of Neptune, and of every deity of the ocean; the games were celebrated, and a ſplendid proceſſion exhibited, in which Nearchus was the principal ornament of the pomp, and the object which claimed the attention of every eye. Flowers and chaplets were wreathed for his head, and flowered upon him by the grateful multitude, while the ſucceſs of his enterprize was proclaimed by their acclamations, and celebrated in their ſongs."

The particulars of the laſt ſickneſs and death of Alexander, as related in his Diary, and handed down to us both by Plutarch and Arrian, are curious. They contain a ſufficient refutation of the vulgar opinion that this hero periſhed by poiſon.

It appears that Alexander had given a ſplendid entertainment to Nearchus and his Officers; at the concluſion of which, as he was returning to his palace, he was met by Medius, who had been feaſting a party of his military friends, and now requeſted the favour of the King's company to do honour at the banquet. That night and the following day were ſpent in feſtivity; and it is not extraordinary that ſome ſymptoms of fever were the conſequences of this exceſs. The Diary commences here.

"Month Dæſius 18th. The King bathed, and, finding the fever upon the increaſe, ſlept at the bathing-houſe.

("The ſleeping at the bathing-houſe is explained by Arrian, who ſtates, that he was conveyed on his bed to the river ſide, and carried over to a garden-houſe on the oppoſite ſhore.) "On this day orders were iſſued for the land-forces to be ready to march on the 22d, and the fleet to be prepared to move on the 23d.

"19th.

"19th. The King bathed; went from the Bath to his chamber; paſſed the day at dice with Medius; bathed again in the evening; attended the ſacrifices in a litter; took nouriſhment ſparingly; in the evening the fever increaſed; and the night was paſſed in great perturbation; orders were iſſued for the officers to attend on the next morning.

"20th. The King bathed; attended ſacrifices as before; converſed while in the Bath with Nearchus upon his voyage from India, and gave him freſh orders to be ready on the 23d.

"21ſt. The King bathed; attended the ſacrifices in the morning; found no abatement of the diſorder; tranſacted buſineſs with the Officers; gave directions about the fleet; bathed again in the evening; the fever ſtill increaſed.

"22d. The King removed into an apartment near the Bath; attended the ſacrifices; the fever now ran very high, and oppreſſed him much; he nevertheleſs ordered the principal Officers to attend, and repeated his orders in regard to the fleet.

"23d. The King was conveyed to the ſacrifices with great difficulty; but iſſued freſh orders to the Naval Officers, and converſed about filling up the vacancies in the army.

"24th. The King was much more oppreſſed, and the fever much increaſed.

"25th. The King was now ſinking faſt under the diſorder, but iſſued freſh orders for the Generals to attend in the palace, and the Officers of rank to be in waiting at the gate. He ſuffered ſtill more towards the evening, and was conveyed back again over the river from the garden to the palace. Here he obtained a ſhort repoſe; but upon his awaking, when the Generals were admitted, though he retained his ſenſes and knew them, he had loſt the power of utterance.

"26th. The fever had made a rapid progreſs all night, and continued without abating during the day.

"27th. The ſoldiers now clamorouſly demanded to be admitted, wiſhing to ſee their Sovereign once more if he were alive, ſuſpecting that he was dead and his death concealed. They were ſuffered therefore to paſs through the apartment in ſingle files without arms, and the King raiſed his head to them, but could not ſpeak.

"28th. In the evening the King expired."

This Journal, which ſo regularly records the progreſs of Alexander's malady, ſufficiently proves that the notion of his having been deſtroyed by treachery is a conjecture without foundation. Plutarch entirely diſcredits the ſtory; and adds, that it was not heard of till ſome years after, when Olympias wiſhed to caſt odium on the family of Antipater. Dr V. very juſtly obſerves, "that the violence of Alexander's paſſions, the perpetual application of his mind, and the exceſſes of the table, are fully ſufficient to furniſh cauſes of diſſolution, without having recourſe to treaſon and conſpiracy."

An Inquiry into the Duties of the Female Sex. By Thomas Giſborne, M. A. 8vo. 6s. Boards. *Cadell jun. and Davies.*

THIS volume contains much uſeful information and inſtruction: The ſtyle, though flowing, elegant, and accurate, is rather deficient in energy. We ſhall content ourſelves with one or two ſhort quotations, reſerving an extract for next number, recommending it, however, to our fair readers to peruſe the whole attentively.

In the Chapter on Female Converſation and Epiſtolary Correſpondence, Mr G. reprehends the levity of diſcourſe in which women, even of improved underſtandings, occaſionally indulge.

"It is not only to women of moderate capacity that hours of trifling and ſlippant converſation are found acceptable. To thoſe of ſuperior talents they are frequently known to give a degree of entertainment, greater than on ſlight conſideration we might have expected. The matter, however, may eaſily be explained. Many women who are endowed with ſtrong mental powers, are little inclined to the trouble of exerting them. They love to indulge a ſupine vacuity of thought; liſten to nonſenſe without diſſatisfaction, becauſe to liſten to it requires no effort; neither ſearch nor prompt others to ſearch, deeper than the ſurface of the paſſing topic of diſcourſe: and were it not for an occaſional remark that indicates diſcernment, or a look of intelligence which gleams through the littleneſs of ſloth, would ſcarcely be ſuſpected of judgment and penetration. While theſe perſons really ſeem, in the common intercourſe of life, to turn their abilities to the advantage either of themſelves

ſelves or of their friends, others gifted with equal talents, are tempted to miſapply them by the conſciouſneſs of poſſeſſing them. Vain of their powers, and of their dexterity in the uſe of them, they cannot reſiſt the impulſe which they feel to lead a pert and coxcomical young man, whenever he falls in their way to expoſe himſelf. The prattle which they deſpiſe they encourage, becauſe it amuſes them by rendering the ſpeaker ridiculous. They lead him on, inſuſpicious of their deſign, and ſecretly plume himſelf on the notice which he attracts, and on his own happy talents of rendering himſelf agreeable, and delighted the moſt when he is moſt the object of deriſion, from one ſtep of folly to another. By degrees they contract an habitual reliſh for the ſtile of converſation which enables them at once to diſplay their own wit, and to gratify their paſſion for mirth and their taſte for the ludicrous. They become inwardly impatient when it flags, and more impatient when it meets with interruption. And if a man of grave aſpect, and more wakeful reflection, preſumes to ſtep within the circle, they aſſail the unwelcome intruder with a volley of brilliant raillery and ſparkling repartee which bears down knowledge and learning before it, and convulſe the delighted auditors with peals of laughter, while he labours in his heavy accoutrements after his light armed antagoniſt, and receives at every turn a ſhower of arrows, which he can neither parry nor withſtand."

In the Chapter (the 19th) on Amuſements, Mr G. lays to many reſtraints on the enjoyment of dramatic entertainments as amounts to a prohibition. He permits it, ſeemingly, only in the caſe "in which its ſuperintendance is committed to legal authority, which would prevent the Stage from being rendered an inſtrument of political machinations and of perſonal calumny; and alſo purify it from incidents, expreſſions, and alluſions, offenſive to modeſty and injurious to morals."

Our Author is, for the moſt part, grave and ſolemn; he relaxes, however, ſometimes into ridicule and humour. Thus, for inſtance, he deſcribes a female faſhionable morning.

"What is called the morning is ſwallowed up in driving from ſtreet to ſtreet, from ſquare to ſquare, in purſuit of perſons whom ſhe is afraid of diſcovering, in knocking at doors where ſhe dreads being admitted. Time is frittered away in a ſort of ſmall intercourſe with numbers for whom ſhe feels little regard, and whom ſhe knows to feel as little for herſelf. Yet every thing breathes the ſpirit of cordiality and attachment. The pleaſure expreſſed at meeting is ſo warm, the inquiries after each others health ſo minute, the ſolicitude, if either party has caught a cold at the laſt opera, ſo extreme, that a ſtranger to the ways of high life, and to the true value of words in the modern dictionaries of compliment, would be in aſtoniſhment at ſuch effuſions of diſintereſted benevolence. Invitation ſucceeds invitation; engagement preſſes on engagement: etiquette offers, form accepts, and indifference aſſumes the air of gratitude and rapture."

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

LONDON.

Remarks on the Drill Huſbandry, by which the ſuperior advantages of that mode of cultivation are pointed out; and its profits aſcertained, from actual experiments: alſo, a Compariſon with it of the moſt approved Methods of Broadcaſt Huſbandry. By Sir John Anſtruther, Bart. 8vo. 4s. Boards. *Egerton.*

THE agricultural public are much indebted to Sir John Anſtruther for his induſtry in drawing together, within ſuch moderate and comprehenſive limits, every thing (perhaps) that is neceſſary to be known of the Engliſh huſbandry; for in ſo doing, it is highly probable that he may prevent much waſte of time by others, who may hereafter be deſirous of diving into theſe rural myſteries.

"Many are of opinion, (he ſays, p. 161,) that two additional ploughings are equal to a common manuring. This, it muſt be confeſſed, cannot be given but by fallowing and loſing a crop, to which ſome are averſe. But they ought to conſider that they are at a much greater expence for manuring, than twice the year's rent and labour, to gain (as they ſuppoſe) a little preſent profit by a crop, rather than a greater the ſucceeding years, by the ground being improved and cleaned, and free of weeds."

Some notion of Sir John's ideas on this ſubject may be collected from the following extract, page 14:

"Although the extenſive improvers mentioned in this work did not find manure to be neceſſary for ground that had been ſome time in the drill hoeing huſbandry, and properly horſe hoed; it is certainly proper to uſe it where

where the ſoil is poor: and when ground is firſt put into the new mode of culture. The full effects of tillage cannot be felt for the firſt year or two, and manure with tillage will bring ground into good order much ſooner than tillage alone. The method adopted by Mr Rouſſell ſeems very adviſeable for perſons beginning this mode of huſbandry. It is proper alſo to guard againſt the accidents to which every new ſyſtem is at firſt liable; if from inattention, or want of ſkill, any of the operations of drilling, hoeing, &c. be neglected or imperfectly executed, manure will in ſome meaſure ſupply this defect of tillage. Laſt of all, it is proper to guard againſt the prejudices of the practical farmer, ſtrongly prepoſſeſſed in favour of manure; thinking it hardly poſſible that a good crop can be obtained without it, if, from an unfavourable ſeaſon or bad management, his firſt or ſecond drilled crop ſhould fall ſhort of his expectations, he immediately imputes to a radical defect in the ſyſtem what was only an accidental effect of the climate, or his own want of ſkill. If after a year or two, he finds that with manure, and proper horſe-hoeing together, his crops are too luxuriant, he may then employ his manure on other lands that require it."

Hiſtory of the Pariſhes of Whiteford and Holywell. By Thomas Pennant, Eſq. 4to. 1l. 1s. Boards. *Meſſrs White.*

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It appears that 800 ounces of gold, of the average value of 3l. 15s. per oz. were collected in the ſix weeks during which the country people were allowed to carry on their ſearch.

"The gold is of a bright yellow colour, perfectly malleable; the ſpecific gravity of an apparently clean piece 19,000. A ſpecimen aſſayed by Mr Weaver, in the moiſt way, produced from 24 grains, 22 $\frac{58}{100}$ grains of pure gold, and 1 $\frac{43}{100}$ of ſilver. Some of the gold is intimately blended with, and adherent to quartz; ſome (it is ſaid) was found united to the fine grained iron ſtone, but the major part was entirely free from the matrix; every piece more or leſs rounded on the edges, of various weights, forms, and ſizes, from the moſt minute particle, up to 2 oz. 17 dwt.; only two pieces are known to have been found of ſuperior weight, and one of thoſe is 5, and the other 22 ounces."

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POETRY.

POETRY.

AVON'S STREAM;

A DIRGE.

By ROBERT BURNS, *a Weaver at Hamilton.*

OH, Avon! round thy rocky ſtream
With many a weary ſtep I ſtray;
Nor chear'd by Phœbus' vernal beam,
Grief pines my gloomy ſoul away.

Thy lofty ſwelling banks I view,
Adorn'd with green trees bloſſom'd white;
Thy birks all bath'd in morning dew,
Alas! they yield me no delight.

Thy winding walks, the happy ſcenes
Of my exulting rapture'd youth;
Ere while I knew woe's ſharpeſt pains,
Ere while I doubted Peggy's truth.

'Twas then my every thought was love,
Fame's airy triumph I valued not;
'Twas then no wealth my ſoul could move,
Nor envy-ſour my peaceful cot.

But, ah! how rueful now the change!
How ſolemn ſad beneath theſe boughs!
Where happy, happy we did range,
And mutual breath'd ſincereſt vows.

Thou ruin'd caſtle*, ivy bound,
Where ſcorried ghoſts terrific cry,
Thy ſhapeleſs form, their dreary ſound,
Accord with wretches ſuch as I.

The tumbling torrent's boiling roar,
The winter-ſhrouded hideleſs trees,
The nipping froſt's mildewing hoar,
My ſad deſponding fancy pleaſe.

Joy's mortal bane, falſe womankind!
For you on Avon's banks I'll mourn;
Nor ſoothing ſolace hope to find,
But in the ſilent peaceful urn.

* Cadzow, near Hamilton.

ON SPRING.

AWAKE my lyre! returning ſpring,
With ſmiles, from thine accuſtom'd ſtring,
Invokes the votive lay.
The tempeſt flies: Where Fortha flows
Meanding, ſee the budding roſe!
See hills and valleys gay.

Remote amid the deep'ning grove
The conſtant turtle woos his love;
And lively linners ſing:
While ſportive lambs along the lawn,
With evening, or with early dawn,
Bleſs the reviving ſpring.

Down thro' the flow'ry winding dale,
With warbles wild, the balmy gale
Conveys the numerous ſtrains:
While rural maids and ſwains advance,
And mingling in the meaſur'd dance,
Beat the reſounding plain.

To virtue dear, dear to the muſe,
Theſe ſcenes of innocence diffuſe
Joy thro' the blameleſs breaſt.
Unknown to fame, or tinſel-ſtate,
Safe in ſome ſylvan calm retreat,
O may I ſtill be bleſs'd.

At eaſe beneath the blooming ſpray,
Let me enjoy the vernal day,
Amid the rural throng:
While ſmiling love, with ſparkling eye,
Flutters on purple pinions by,
And wakes the warbling ſong.

MONODY

ON THE DEATH OF ROBERT BURNS.

MELPOMENE, thou mournfu' muſe,
Diuna to aid me now refuſe,
My paper mony a tear bedews,
My heart's like lead,
Now while I write the wafu' news,
That Robin's dead.

For ſterling genius, blyth and free,
Fam'd Robin's match when ſhall we ſee?
Ye ſons o' muſic riſe and gie
A waefu' ſcreed,
The pith and ſaul o' mirth and glee
Wi' Burns are fled.

Ye laſſes, gathering heather bells,
By Scotia's moſſes, glens, or fells,
Ye bardies "crooning to yourſels"
By burn or brae,
Echo thro' a' yon hills and dells
The ſang of wae.

Let poor dull rhymers rack their brains,
His native wild enchanting ſtrains
Shall charm a' Caledonia's ſwains,
Baith young and auld,
While *mountain daiſies* deck our plains
They'll touch the ſaul.

His death wi' far mair grief we learn,
That on reflection we diſcern,
Long might we had our fav'rit bairn,
In health ſa' ſicker:
O curſe the fallows did him learn
To toom the bicker.

But let us not, as chatt'ring fools,
Proclaim his faults, like envy's tools,
Wha ſeek out darkneſs juſt like owls,
Dark, dark indeed,
But a' his failings co'er wi' the mools,
Now ſince he's dead.

As bright a genius death has torn
As thee fam'd Scotia did adorn;
Like Phœbus when he ſpringe at morn,
Clear was his level;
What news could mak' us mair forlorn,
Than "Robin's dead!"

The

The winter nights I've cheer'd by turns,
Wi' Ramsay, Fergusson, and Burns:
The first twa cauld are in their urns,
Their sauls at rest:
Now weeping Caledonia mourns,
Him last and best.

SONNET TO LOVE.

BY MISS HELEN MARIA WILLIAMS.

AH, Love, ere yet I knew thy fatal power,
Bright glow'd the colour of my youthful days,
As, on the sultry zone, the torrid rays
That paint the broad-leav'd plantain's glossy bower!

Calm was my bosom, as the silent hour
When o'er the deep the scarce-heard Zepher strays,
'Midst the cool tamirands indolently plays,
Nor from the orange shakes its od'rous flower.

But, ah! since Love has all my heart possess'd,
That desolated heart what sorrows tear—
Disturb'd and wild as Ocean's troubled breast,
When the hoarse tempest of the night is there!

Yet, my complaining spirit asks no rest;
This bleeding bosom cherishes despair.

FOR A TABLET ON THE BANKS OF A STREAM.

BY R. SOUTHEY.

STRANGER! awhile upon this mossy bank
Recline thee. If the sun rides high, the breeze,
That loves to ripple o'er the rivulet,
Will play around thy brow, and the cool sound
Of running waters soothe thee. Mark how clear
It sparkles o'er the shallows, and behold
Where o'er its surface wheels with restless speed
Yon glossy insect, on the sand below
How the swift shadow flies. The stream is pure,
In solitude, and many a healthful herb
Bends o'er its course and drinks the vital wave:
But passing on amid the haunts of man,
It finds pollution there, and rolls from thence
A tainted tide. Seek'st thou for Happiness?
Go Stranger, sojourn in the woodland cot
Of Innocence, and thou shalt find her there.

THE WATER-CRESS GIRL.

SOON as the sable veil is drawn,
And faintly peeps the grey-ey'd morn,
Ere yet breaks forth the cheering ray,
To gild the lawn, and crown the day,
While many a maid her pillow presses,
I rise to cull young water cresses.

The balmy sweets of slumber fled,
I willing quit my strawy bed.
In yellow hat and russet clad,
Though poor my lot, my heart is glad;
No anxious hand my mind distresses,
But blithe I cry young water-cresses.

Though ne'er I prov'd the charms of wealth,
Content is mine and blooming health;
The chaste delights which these bestow,
From pomp and riches cannot flow;
Since store of wealth content suppresses,
I'll willing cry young water-cresses.

When genial rays succeed the dawn,
Or hoary winter chills the morn,
Or when the seasons milder prove,
To paint the lawn, or leafy grove,
No change of year my mind distresses;
I still may cull young water-cresses.

When cowslips', violets' blooms decay,
And meads and lawns no charms display;
When '*orphan Kate*' shall cease to cry,
The primrose pale '*who'll buy—who'll buy!*'
Still bounteous nature Nelly blesses,
And still bestows young water-cresses.

Though bare my feet, I headless tread
The stonny path, the wat'ry mead,
Where winding streams 'midst verdure glide,
Or by the grav'ly brook's green side.
With bending back, and flowing tresses,
I daily cull young water-cresses.

I ne'er my store to market bring
Ere wash'd in purest chrystal spring;
In honest bunches careful tie,
Then to the neighb'ring village hie:
I plead no cares, no sad distresses,
But blithely cry young water-cresses.

'Till sinks the sun beneath the sky,
The hamlet hears my well-known cry,
And gladly then I homeward haste,
The sweets of honest toil to taste;
There's none more blest,—knows less distresses,
Than Nell, who cries young water-cresses.

SUBSTANCE of the REPORT of the SELECT COMMITTEE of the HOUSE of COMMONS on the Finances.

I.—*The Public Funded Debt.*

The total amount of the Public Debts, as they stood upon the 5th of January 1793, appears to have been in Funded Capital £. 238,231,248 5 2½

And

And the total of the Annual Intereſt and Charge of the Public Funded Debt at that period amounted to - -	£. 9,325,866	4	3¾
The Public Debts which aroſe between the 5th of January 1793, and the 5th of January 1797, appears to have been created by the raiſing of 59,000,000l. ſterling, upon loans, and by the funding of Navy, Victualling, and Tranſport Bills, to the amount of 7,623,896l. 6s. 1d. ſterling; amounting in the whole to the ſum of	66,624,596	6	1
And it appears that, in conſequence thereof, the total amount of the Public Debts, created between the 5th of January 1793 and the 5th of January 1797, was in Funded Capital - -	88,840,122	14	9
And the total of the Annual Intereſt and Charges upon the above increaſe of Debt was - - - - - -	3,151,623	15	8
The total Funded Capital of the Public Debt was therefore, upon the 5th of January 1797 - - - - - -	327,071,370	19	2¾
And the total Annual Intereſt and Charge of the Public Funded Debt was - - - - - - - -	12,307,489	17	11¼

Your Committee think it neceſſary further to ſtate, that, in order to ſhew correctly the complete Amount of the Annual Charge, the ſum of 1,800,000l. iſſued to the Commiſſioners for reducing the National Debt, ſhould be added to the intereſts and Charges of the Debt exiſting on the 5th of January 1793. And that a further annual ſum, in reſpect to the 1l. per cent. per ann. on Capital, funded ſince the 5th of January 1793, payable to the ſaid Commiſſioners, amounting to 923,154l. 19s. 4d. ſhould be added alſo to the intereſt and Charges of the debt created ſince that period.

Theſe being taken together, viz. - - - - -	£. 1,923,154	19	4
and added to the former ſum, viz. - - - - -	12,307,489	17	11¼
the total Annual Charge of the Public Funded Debt, including the Sums applicable to the Reduction thereof, as it ſtood upon the 5th of January 1797, was - - - - -	14,130,644	17	3¼

Your Committee alſo beg leave to obſerve, that neither the amount of the ſtock created by funding certain Navy, Victualling, Tranſport, and Exchequer Bills, in the courſe of the preſent Seſſion, nor by the Loan of Eighteen Millions for the ſervice of the year 1797, are noticed in this ſtatement; as they neither are, nor by the Courſe of the Exchequer could be, included in the Account made up to the period marked out by the inſtructions to your Committee.

It appears, however, that the Capital Stock, created by funding the Bills, amounting to 1,567,399l. 8s. was - - - -	£. 21,675,774	0	0
The Loan - - - - - - -	20,200,000	0	0
Total - -	£. 41,875,774	0	0

The total of the Annual Intereſt and Charges, and 1l. per cent. upon the above additional debt, amounts to - - -	£. 2,151,250	1	0

Your Committee, in concluding this part of their inquiries, think it right to obſerve, upon the total of the capital Stock ſo created, and ſo conſtituting the public Funded Debt; Firſt, That its amount is not to be conſidered as if it could only be extinguiſhed by a redemption at par; inaſmuch as the progreſſive reduction of the National Debt, by the preſent Sinking Fund, conſtantly operates, by buying up the debt according to the current price of Stocks; the effect of which they have entered into more fully in a ſubſequent part of this Report.

2dly, That the Funded Capital of the Public Debt includes in it the the amount of the capital purchaſed by the Commiſſioners for reducing the National Debt.

And, 3dly, That the annual charge upon the Public, by way of intereſt, and annuities for terms, includes in it the intereſt of the Stock purchaſed by the Commiſſioners, and alſo of the annuities which have expired.

Your Committee think it alſo proper to ſtate here, that by Stat. 35 G. III. c. 93. proviſion was made for guaranteeing the payment of the dividends on a loan of 4,600,000l. on account of the Emperor; under the authority of which Statute there has been created

In Capital Stock, 3l. per cents. - - - - -	£. 3,833,333	6	8
And in Annuities for 25 years, from the 1ſt of May 1794 - -	230,000	0	0

Taxes.

The Committee proceed firſt to ſtate the produce of each of the four years, preceding the 5th of January 1797, or the permanent taxes, which exiſted previous to the 5th of January 1793.

Upon

Upon the refult of their examination, the Committee find the actual average produce of the permanent taxes for theſe four years, to be about - - - - - - - £. 13,780,000 0 0
without adding the deficiency occaſioned by the ſtoppage of diſtilleries.

The Select Committee of 1791, eſtimated the probable produce of the permanent taxes to be - - - - - 13,472,000 0 0

From this ſum muſt be deducted the average produce of the taxes repealed in 1792, amounting, as appears by papers laid before the Houſe of Commons on the 10th and 13th of February 1792, to be about 223,000l. leaving a ſum of - - - - - 13,249,000 0 0

Your Committee have alſo thought it proper to aſcertain the average produce of the permanent taxes during the four years which immediately preceded the preſent war; and they find the ſame to have been, after allowing for the deduction of the Shop Tax, and the duties repealed in 1792, about - - - - - 13,831,000 0 0

Your Committee have the ſatisfaction of obſerving, that the actual produce of the ſame taxes, on the average of the four years of war, (without making any allowance for the ſtoppage of the diſtilleries) exceeds the eſtimate formed in 1791, by above - - - 530,000 0 0
and is below their average produce in the four preceding years of peace only by - - - - - - - 50,000 0 0

Your Committee have next proceeded to examine the produce of the ſeveral taxes provided for defraying the encreaſed charges of the Public Debt, from the 6th of January 1793, to the 5th of January 1797; diſtinguiſhing the produce of each year.

Upon this examination they find, that the Duties continued in 1793 produced,

In 1793 - - - - -	£. 247,638	0	0
1794 - - - - -	248,858	10	0
1795 - - - - -	201,365	0	0
1796 - - - - -	966,823	0	0

That the Duties continued and impoſed in 1794 produced,

In 1794 - - - - -	£. 618,040	13	4½
1795 - - - - -	821,122	9	0
1796 - - - - -	818,868	4	7½

That the duties impoſed in 1795 produced,

In 1795 - - - - -	1,373,000	9	7
1796 - - - - -	1,332,794	19	4½

And they find that the Duties impoſed in 1796, had produced on the 5th of January 1797, £. 694,644 9 2¾

In ſtating the produce of theſe ſeveral Taxes, your Committee think it neceſſary to obſerve, that the produce of new duties within the firſt year of their being impoſed, can ſeldom afford correct means of eſtimating their real productiveneſs. In ſome inſtances, the firſt year has been more productive than ſubſequent years; but, in general the firſt year has been leſs productive; the collection of moſt duties not taking place before a conſiderable part of the current year had elapſed, and a conſiderable part of the produce of the fraction of the current year not being paid into the Exchequer till after the termination of that year, and the modes of collection not being brought at their beginning to their greateſt degree of efficacy, an accurate eſtimate of it cannot be made from the amount of its produce which appears upon the Exchequer Account.

Your Committee were, however, deſirous of examining how far the produce of the Taxes impoſed in the firſt years of the war, of which alone, at preſent, your Committee have been enabled to form any adequate judgment, appears ſufficient to defray the charges of ſuch part of the public debt as has been funded during the ſame period. For this purpoſe they have looked to the year moſt diſtant from their commencement, as affording, for the reaſons above given, the beſt means to judge of their productiveneſs.

In 1793, they find that the annual charge upon the Public on account of the intereſt, management, and 1l. per cent. upon the debt funded in 1793, was - - - - - - - £. 252,812 0 0

The produce of the duties anſwerable for this charge was, in the year 1796, only - - - - - - - - - 166,813 0 0

But your Committee think it their duty to obſerve, that this produce muſt have been materially affected by the ſtoppage of the diſtilleries, which prevailed from June 1795, to November 1796.

In

In 1794, the Annual Charge upon the public, on account of the intereſt, management, and 1l. per cent. on the debt funded in 1794, appears to be - - - - - - - - - - 773,824 0 0

The produce of the duties continued and impoſed in that year, appears to have been, in the year 1796 - - - - - 818,868 0 0

In 1795, the Annual Charge upon the public, on account of the intereſt, management, and 1l. per cent. upon the debt funded in 1795, was - - - - - - - - 1,227,415 0 0

The produce of the duties anſwerable for this charge was, in the year 1796 - - - - - - - - - 1,332,794 0 0

In 1796, the Charge upon the public for the intereſt, management, and 1l. per cent. upon the debt created, was - - - - - 1,851,226 0 0

The actual Receipt at the Exchequer of the duties impoſed in that year, was, on the 5th of January 1797 - - - - - 604,634 0 0

Your Committee, for many of the reaſons above aſſigned, do not think it poſſible for them at preſent to form, upon ſimilar grounds, an eſtimate of a whole year's produce of the duties impoſed in 1796; neither do they think it adviſeable to delay this their firſt report, by entering into any detailed examination of the particulars; they feel it, however, their duty to obſerve, that no adequate judgment can be formed of the future produce of theſe taxes from the actual receipt at the Exchequer at the above-mentioned period.

III.—*Unfunded Debt, and Demands Outſtanding.*

Your Committee have next proceeded to examine and ſtate the amount of the Unfunded Debt and demands, outſtanding on the 5th of January 1797, under the heads of Exchequer, Treaſury, Army, Barracks, Ordnance, and Navy, as ſtated by the reſpective Offices, in the ſeveral Accounts annexed; reſerving to themſelves the liberty of ſtating, in any future report, any further information or obſervations thereupon, which a more detailed inveſtigation may enable them to lay before the Houſe. They have diſtinguiſhed under each head, 1ſt. What part of the Unfunded Debt has been provided for. 2d. What part, although provided for by the grants of former years, had not been paid on the 5th of January 1797, by reaſon of the conſolidated fund not having produced the ſurplus at which it was eſtimated.—And 3dly, what part appears at preſent to be unprovided for.

Totals of the Unfunded Debt.

1ſt. Charged on Funds which were inſufficient on January 5. 1797	£. 3,284,012	6	1¾
2d. Unprovided for - - - - - - - -	12,736,900	0	3½
	£. 16,020,912	6	5¼
3d. Provided for, being the anticipation in the uſual form, upon the Land and Malt Taxes - - - - - - - -	5,632,000	0	0

Your Committee think proper to obſerve in this place, that (beſides what may be due to the public upon monies impreſſed, and balances from public accountants), the following ſums have been advanced by way of loan, and now remain due to the public:

Advance by way of loan to the Emperor - - - - -	£. 1,420,000	0	0
Ditto for relief of the iſlands of Grenada and St Vincent - -	910,000	0	0
Ditto paid on bills drawn by the Treaſurers of the ſaid iſlands, for the purchaſe of proviſions, &c. - - - - - -	140,000	0	0
Remitted in Specie to Ireland - - - - - - -	52,500	0	0
And a further ſum of 600,000l. is propoſed to be advanced to the planters of Grenada and St Vincent, included in the ſtatement of the Supply for preſent year - - - - - - -	600,000	0	0

IV.—*Eſtimates.*

Your Committee next proceeded to examine and ſtate the expected total amount of the public expence of the year ending the 5th of January 1798, as far as the ſame can now be aſcertained or eſtimated by the ſeveral offices, and they find the eſtimates are as follow, viz.

1ſt. Navy - - - - - - - - - -				£. 12,935,496	0 0
In this Eſtimate no future charge is included for neutral cargoes, as the value has not yet been aſcertained by the Aſſeſſors appointed by the Admiralty Court.					
2d. Army---Ordinary Expences -	6,897,958	5	0½	11,035,958	5 0
Extraordinaries for 1797	4,137,000	0	0½		
The Extraordinaries of the army for the current year, appear now to be brought forward, for the firſt time, by way of eſtimate, having always conſtituted a par				the ſucceeding year.	

3d. Barracks	449,076	0	0
4th. Ordnance	1,321,024	9	2
5th. Miſcellaneous Services	1,149,843	17	6
In this ſum are included 600,000l. propoſed to be lent to perſons connected with, and trading to the Iſlands of Grenada and St Vincent, and a further ſum of 464,920l. 17s. 6d. for articles which has been uſual to pay in the firſt inſtance out of the Civil Liſt, and to propoſe afterwards to Parliament to vote a ſum ſufficient to repay what has been ſo advanced.			
6th. A ſum upon account, for making temporary advances by way of Loan for the ſervice of the Emperor	500,000	0	0
The following articles were ſtated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as part of the ſupply for the year 1796, viz.			
7th. Deficiency of Land and Malt	350,000	0	0
8th. Commiſſioners for national debt	200,000	0	0
Add to thoſe a Vote of Credit, which your Committee are informed is intended to be propoſed to Parliament	2,500,000	0	0
£.	30,440,398	11	8

The re-payments to the Bank, of 1,023,000l. ſtated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as part of the ſupply for 1797, are omitted here, as having been included in the ſum of 1,154,000l. ſtated to be a part of the unfunded debt of the Exchequer, not ſufficiently provided for on the 5th of January 1797.

V.—*Ways and Means.*

Your Committee find that the ways and means already propoſed for the year 1797, conſiſt of

Articles Voted, viz.

Land and Malt,	L. 2,750,000
Loan,	18,000,000
Surplus of Grants,	420,000
	L. 27,170,000

And of Articles Eſtimated, viz.

Growing produce of the Conſolidated Fund,	1,075,000
Exchequer Bills,	5,500,000
Lottery,	200,000
Total L.	27,945,000

VI.—*Reduction of Public Debt.*

Your Committee have further proceeded to ſtate an account of the progreſs that has been made in the reduction of the public debt ſince the 5th of July 1786, of the ſums now annually applicable thereto, and of the further progreſs which may be expected to be made, as far as the ſame can be at preſent aſcertained, in the reduction of the debt now exiſting.

Your Committee have great ſatisfaction upon this ſubject, in contemplating the large means, which are now annually employed for the reduction of the public debt, and the conſiderable progreſs which has been already made towards that important end.

The annual ſum now applicable to that purpoſe appears to amount to L. 3,359,799 6 2

The capital ſtock purchaſed by the application of the ſeveral ſums, appears to have been, on the 10th of March 1797, L. 23,334,200 0 0

The further progreſs to be made in the reduction of the debt has been calculated, by order of the Commiſſioners, according to the operation of the annual million, the intereſt of the ſtock redeemed by it, the amount of expired and unclaimed annuities, and an equal ſum of two hundred thouſand pounds in aid of this fund, granted by Parliament, as applied to the reduction of the debt which exiſted before the war, and conſidered as then amounting to the ſum of two hundred and forty millions.

Theſe calculations, of courſe, depend upon the different prices at which the ſeveral ſtocks in which the public debt conſiſts may happen to be purchaſed.

The earlieſt date, according to theſe calculations, at which the whole of the debt that exiſted prior to 1793, and taken at two hundred and forty millions, would be cancelled, is 33 years, from 1ſt February 1797; and even the moſt remote date at which it would be cancelled does not exceed 54 years.

Your Committee obſerve, that the ſaid calculations relate only to the progreſs which will be made, upon different data, in the reduction of the debt exiſting before the war, by the application of the funds provided for that purpoſe.

The

The reduction of the debt which has been incurred during the war depends upon different conſiderations. The amount of the ſinking fund applicable thereto, including the 1l. per cent. on account of the loan and bills funded in the preſent ſeſſion, amounts to - L. 1,341,411 0 0
The dividend on the ſtock purchaſed thereby is - - - - 77,068 0 0
The total amount of the new ſinking fund was - - - - 1,418,479 0 0
The capital of the new debt, to the reduction of which this ſum is applicable, is - - - - - L. 130,665,896 0 0

In order to give the Houſe fuller information upon this part of the ſubject, your Committee have called for further calculations; but in the mean time they think it neceſſary to obſerve, that the new ſinking fund appears to bear a much larger proportion to the new debt than the old ſinking fund, with its accumulations, the annual grant of two hundred thouſand pounds, and the annuities expired, does at the preſent moment to the old debt: And that the old ſinking fund, after reaching the ſum of four millions, is no longer made applicable by law to the diſcharge at compound intereſt of what may then remain of the old debt; but the operation of the new ſinking fund is to continue at compound intereſt till the new debt ſhall be totally extinguiſhed.

The following ABSTRACT, from an Edinburgh News paper, which ſeems to be accurate, will bring the whole under view at one glance.

1. Funded debt, 5th January 1793, - -		L. 238,231,248	5 2¼
2. Funded ſince, up to 5th January 1797, - -		88,840,122	14 0
3. Funded for the voluntary loan and navy bills, L. 41,825,774	0 0		
4. Loan propoſed, L. 15,000,000, ſay at 50 conſols. is - - -	30,000,000	0 0	
5. Unfunded debt, - - -	21,702,912	6 5¼	
		93,528,686	6 5¼
		L. 420,600,057	5 7½
Deduct,			
Stock purchaſed, with fund for reducing the national debt, ---	L. 23,334,200	0	
Sums owing by the Emperor, Planters in Grenada, and St Vincent's, -	3,144,500	0 0	
		26,478,700	0
Total Debt, excluſive of L. 3,333,333 : 6 : 8 capital at 3 per cent. and Annuities of L. 230,000, for the Emperor at 25 years from 1ſt May 1794.		L. 394,121,357	5 7½
Expenditure for 1797.			
Intereſt and charges of management on No. 1 & 2. -		L. 14,430,644	17 3¼
Ditto on No 3. -		2,151,250	1 *
To which fall to be added the expences of management, and intereſt on the articles No 4. & 5. as well as our engagements for the Emperor, which not having been ſtated by the Select Committee, cannot be inſerted here.			
Eſtimates for this Year, viz.			
Navy, - - - - -	L. 12,935,496	0 0	
Army, - - - - - -	11,034,958	5 0	
Barracks, - - - - -	449,076	0 0	
Ordnance, - - - -	1,321,024	9 2	
Miſcellaneous ſervices, - - -	1,149,843	17 6	
Temporary advance to the Emperor, until we loan him another loan, - - - -	500,000	0 0	
	L. 27,390,398	11 8	
Deduct money lent to the Emperor, and L. 600,000 lent to perſons connected with and trading to Granada and St Vincent's, being part of the miſcellaneous ſervices	1,100,000	0 0	
		26,290,398	11 8
Total expenditure for 1797, excluſive of the intereſt and charges of management of the three articles left in blank - -		£. 42,872,293	9 11½

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BANK.

March 24. It was agreed that the prohibition ſhould not extend to the iſſue of ſpecie for any fractional part of a pound. After the duration clauſe was read,

Mr Pitt moved, that the blank ſhould be filled with the words "until the 24th of June 1797."

Sir W. Pulteney conſidered the plan propoſed as inadequate to the purpoſe, and propoſed an adjournment to Monday.—The Hon. Baronet was repeatedly urged to anounce a plan, which he declined doing.

Mr Fox could not conſent to the duration of the reſtriction beyond the 2d of April, or the 1ſt of May. He therefore moved, by way of amendment, that the 1ſt of May ſhould be ſubſtituted for the 24th of June.

Mr Jaddis had no doubt of the bank. He was convinced that 3,000,000l. of cath, which might be raiſed in 24 hours, would ſet them to rights. He had offered Mr Newland 400 guineas, if he would promiſe to return them when wanted, and farther offered to produce 50,000 more in a few weeks on the ſame terms; but Mr Newland would not engage to return the money. He ſhould, however, have no objection to put a million in the bank; the profits would be handſome now, and if his plan was followed, would be a *damn'd* deal more. He had always (thank God) plenty of money in his houſe, but ſhould have no objection to employ ſome of it in ſo beneficial a concern as the Bank of England.

The Committee then divided on Mr Fox's amendment, when there appeared

For it 88
Againſt it 218
Majority ——130.

31. *Mr Pitt* propoſed a clauſe for limiting the iſſue of cath to the City Bankers, during the prohibition, to 100,000l. Agreed to.

CORN BILL.

April 3. *Mr Hobart* brought up the report of the Corn Bill.

Mr Coke expreſſed a wiſh to have the word "Barley," which was omitted in a former ſtage, re-inſerted.

A converſation aroſe between the landed and the mercantile intereſt. On the one hand it was aſſerted, that the mercantile intereſt, in queſtions of this nature, commonly had the aſcendency in the Houſe, becauſe they were more vigilant and active than the landed intereſt; and it was contended, that the free exportation of barley, as well as of every other kind of grain, under the preſent circumſtances, could alone enable the farmers to make good their engagements with the land-owners, and maintain their own families. On the other hand, the enormous profits of the dealers in corn for many months paſt, and the loſſes ſuſtained by brewers, inn-keepers, and others, who were the conſumers of grain, during the high prices, were urged as reaſons for continuing the prohibition a little longer, or at leaſt not including barley, that the dealers might have an opportunity of indemnifying themſelves. The Houſe divided, when there appeared, for the inſertion of the word "barley" to the bill,

Ayes 45 Noes 36.

The report was then received, and the bill with the amendments ordered to be engroſſed.

ADVANCES TO THE EMPEROR*.

4. *Mr Sheridan* began by remarking, that the diſcuſſion of this important ſubject, previous to the report of the Secret Committee, was attended with much inconvenience; at the ſame time it was material that the country ſhould aſcertain the important fact, whether the embarraſſments of public credit had been produced by drains of money to the Continent; and likewiſe, that his Imperial Majeſty, now on the eve of an extenſive campaign, ſhould know what dependence he had of pecuniary aſſiſtance from this country. Though it was deſirable to have the report of theſe ſtate-phyſicians, it would be as abſurd to delay the remedy, under the preſent ſtate of the patient, as for a ſurgeon to delay the application of a ſtyptic or a bandage to a bleeding wound, until he had aſcertained the inſtrument that produced it. Public credit was in a ſituation not to admit of delay, and he ſhould have conſidered himſelf as deficient in his duty, had he conſented to the delay

* As this debate involves ſeveral topics of the utmoſt importance, we ſhall give it at more length than uſual.

of

of a ſingle hour. From the documents upon the table, he had the ſatisfaction to find, that the conduct of the Bank Directors was leſs reprehenſible than he at firſt imagined.—If, on the event of the inveſtigation, it ſhould appear that the Bank had made frequent remonſtrances againſt that new mode of ſurreptitiouſly introducing without limitation; and that they wiſhed to reduce the amount from two millions to 500,000l. they will ſtand in a much fairer point of view than the Chancellor of the Exchequer, at whoſe inſtigation they had broken their faith with the public.—Whether they had perſevered in their remonſtrances againſt the exportation of money, till the iſſue of the Order of Council, was yet to be aſcertained. The Hon. Gentleman now proceeded to read extracts from the communications between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Bank Directors, from December 1794, up to the Order of Council on the 26th of February laſt. From theſe it appeared, that the Bank had tranſmitted frequent remonſtrances to the Miniſter againſt the tranſmiſſion of bullion to the Continent, and repreſented that the ſyſtem would prove fatal to public credit. On the 11th of February 1796, the Bank went the length of a reſolution againſt the Imperial loan then negotiating. The Chancellor expreſſed his ſurpriſe at their conduct, and aſſured them that no future loans ſhould be granted without previous notice to the Bank. Now, in violation of this ſolemn promiſe, enormous ſums were ſent without even the ſanction of the Houſe. In October laſt, at the opening of the preſent ſeſſion, his Majeſty's ſpeech informed the Houſe of the flouriſhing ſtate of the country, the real ſolidity of our reſources, and declared that they were adapted to all the exigencies of the public ſervice; at the time when the Miniſter was putting a falſehood in the mouth of his Majeſty, he had information that new exports of caſh were intended, and likewiſe that public credit was much embarraſſed. It would appear, he ſaid, from the general reſult of theſe papers, that the Bank had been inceſſantly repreſenting their decreaſing credit, from the increaſing advances upon them. They were progreſſively approaching a ſtate of inſolvency, till that event was conſummated by the Order of Council, which purports to have been iſſued on the repreſentation of Mr Pitt, without a ſingle document in ſupport of the aſſertion. The remonſtrance of the Bank on that occaſion was wanting, a circumſtance which induced him to wiſh, for the ſake of public juſtice, that the Houſe had acceſs to the minutes of Council. He next remarked upon the propriety of further advances to his Imperial Majeſty, with a view to the probability of repayment, and the effect that could be produced by theſe advances, with a view to the queſtion of war or peace. To him it appeared, that a pecuniary aid would be ineffectual to accelerate a peace, and an equally bad mean for carrying on the war. The queſtion was not whether a large loan to the Emperor may not be an accommodation to him, but whether it will produce to him, as an ally, greater benefit than diſadvantage to this country? He did not agree with ſome Gentlemen oppoſite, that becauſe an army was not paid, they could not fight; for the French troops, deſtitute of every thing, had atchieved the moſt brilliant victories. Hardſhips ſeemed to animate their ſouls, and ſteel their nerves. Unleſs the Imperial troops were inſpired by ſimilar enthuſiaſm, the money is thrown away, becauſe they do not fight under a conviction of the juſtice of their cauſe. The Houſe ought to apply their exertions to the reſtoration of public credit, which he repreſented as the life-blood of the State, rather than ſquander their treaſures in the proſecution of a conteſt, which was the primary cauſe of all our domeſtic embarraſſments. Even if this campaign was to be the laſt, twenty-ſix millions annually would be inſufficient to maintain our peace eſtabliſhment; and if it was intended that our income ſhould cover our expenditure, it would be neceſſary to lay on five millions additional taxes, which could not be collected without the reſtoration of public credit. Our ally, therefore, he contended, could not expect us to do for him an act which would bring upon us entire ruin.—Whence were we to derive our reſources?—Not from India, for the aſpect of affairs in that country was unfavourable—not from the Weſt Indies, which ſeemed to be the untimely grave of our brave countrymen—not from Ireland, for that country was in a ſtate of civil war, from the miſconduct of the government—and he underſtood that a million and a half was to be ſent

to

to it in hard caſh. To ſhew the rapid decline of our finances, the low ebb of public credit, and the want of confidence in Adminiſtration, he compared the price of ſtocks this day, with the correſponding day of laſt year, when 5 per cents were at 101: 3 per cents at 69¼: to-day, 5 per cents are at 72¼: 3 per cents at 49½. Theſe diſcouraging and alarming circumſtances pointed out the neceſſity of reſtoring public credit. It was not his with to infuſe a ſpirit of deſpondency into the public mind, but he wiſhed to remove that ſyſtem of deluſion which had proved ſo fatal to the Bank of England, who were treaſurers for the public. It would prove equally deſtructive to that Houſe, if they perſevered in this plan of implicit confidence in Miniſters. To withhold our advances, might, in his view of the ſubject, reſtore peace, and it might be done without any breach of good faith on our part. We might alledge, with great truth, that we had advanced our laſt guinea, and ſacrificed our honour and national credit. It behoved the Houſe to convince the people, that their repreſentatives were the conſtitutional guardians of the public purſe, and that this principle was recognized in a Member's becoming ineligible the moment he accepted an office under government, until he was returned by his conſtituents. If they ſtill went on confiding, they would not indeed become the King's Parliament, but the confiding Parliament of the Emperor of Germany. He concluded by moving, "That the Houſe ſhould reſolve itſelf into a Committee of the whole Houſe, to inquire whether the country could, conſiſtently with its own ſafety, grant any further loans or advances to the Emperor."

Mr Pitt entered upon a very animated reply, by obſerving that the motion was contradictory, diſingenuous, and premature, and after a few remarks on the reports of the Secret Committee and the Revenue Committee, which he conſidered as the baſis of any inveſtigation, he proceeded to take a review of the general argument. Some of the topics urged by the Hon. Gentleman, he readily admitted, were of the utmoſt importance. He expreſſed a conviction, that when the Houſe came to decide on theſe queſtions, not looking merely to the general principle of profiting by continental diverſions, but looking in every point of view to what might conduce to the reſtoration of public credit, the tranſmiſſion of money to the Emperor would be found the moſt effectual method of promoting the true intereſts of the country, and ſecuring an honourable peace. The Houſe was not to conſider the ſacrifice in a mere financial point of view, namely, whether the degree of advantage given to the Emperor, in a joint ſtruggle, was diſadvantageous to this country, becauſe remote objects were involved, which would give a different complexion to the buſineſs. How to aſcertain the joint or individual advantage in the balance was extremely difficult. The difference was, whether we were to have an offenſive or a defenſive war carried on by the Emperor. Whatever we had been told of the brilliant conduct of the French, the laſt campaign exhibited an inſtance of magnanimity in the Emperor, profeſſional ſkill in the officers, and enthuſiaſm in the troops, which have no parallel in the hiſtory of any country. In conſequence of cutting off the hope of further ſupplies, the enemy would renew their attacks in the Tyrol and on the Rhine with redoubled fury, and reduce the Emperor to the alternative of making a ſeparate peace. Whether would it be more œconomical to carry on the war jointly with the Emperor or by us alone. —How to eſtimate the value of this queſtion, the Right Hon. Gentleman confeſſed he felt a difficulty;—could any man, however, on a principle of œconomy or prudence, heſitate to ſuppoſe that the difference of the relative ſituation of this country would be far more than ſufficient to repay the co-operation on œconomical or prudential motives. With reſpect to the concluſions that had been drawn from papers, of the diſtreſſed ſituation of the country, he could aſſert, with a confidence which his official ſituation enable him to do, that the deſcription was very much exaggerated. On this part of the ſubject he declined commenting at any length, as a future opportunity would furniſh the Houſe with authentic documents, in order to a deciſion. He reverted to the ſubject of advances, and argued with great ingenuity and ſucceſs, that if the country was forced to a continuance of the war, a joint war would be leſs expenſive, and more likely to be attended with a favourable iſſue, than a ſtruggle where we were the only party. With reſpect to the reſtoration of public credit, and an al-

alleviation of the national burthens, he ſaid theſe were objects connected and interwoven with the ſecurity and independence of the country, and would be accelerated by an effectual co-operation with his Imperial Majeſty; indeed he conſidered the intereſts of the two countries as identified. We had ſeen the uniform policy of France, to detach the allies, acted upon too ſucceſsfully with ſome powers. This country and Auſtria are united by every tie of intereſt and friendſhip.—France wiſhes to diſunite them by making peace with Auſtria, with a view to carry on the war to more advantage with this country, or to dictate a humiliating peace. Government have received intelligence of the inſidious attempts of the enemy to accompliſh this object. The Emperor, influenced by the moſt honourable motives, has not only rejected their offers with diſdain, but has likewiſe given his Majeſty a ſolemn declaration, that he will negotiate a peace only in concert with Great Britain. After combating the other arguments of Mr Sheridan, the Right Hon. Gentleman concluded by giving his moſt decided negative to the motion.

Mr Fox ſaid, that the ſtrong caſe which had been made out by his Hon. Friend was not at all impaired by the arguments of the Miniſter. The remonſtrances of the Bank formed, in fact, the ſtrong ground of argument, which, as the Right Hon. Gentleman could not overleap, he had prudently choſen to avoid. It was material that the preſent motion ſhould be conſidered, and that at the preſent moment. The King's Miniſter might even now have entered into engagements with reſpect to new advances to the Emperor. This he had done even whilſt Parliament was ſitting, and his conduct had been marked only by a ſlight cenſure from that Houſe. The inconveniences on this head ſhould be duly weighed againſt each other. Whether the Emperor was to reconquer Lombardy or not, no man in this country could put in counterpoiſe with the more ſerious queſtion—whether the credit of this country could or could not be re-eſtabliſhed? The Miniſter had perſuaded the laſt Parliament, by what means he could not preſume to ſay, that this was moſt eſpecially a war of finance between France and this country. Could that Right Hon. Gentleman uſe that language now, when ſpeaking of the finances and reſources of France, with relation to thoſe of England? Did he mean to ſay of the Emperor, our independent ally, that he ſhould conclude a ſeparate peace with France, unleſs the war was in future to be conducted at the ſole expence of Great Britain? The failure of the Bank of England ſhould have taught the Emperor that no more ſubſidies were to be expected. That failure, combined with the late invaſion of Ireland, ſhould have taught the Miniſter that his Imperial diverſion was of no avail. Such a Continental diverſion, he would admit, was formerly of ſome uſe, as it left this country at leiſure to cultivate its marine. But at the preſent moment, it was a financial war, the Directory of the French Republic could not purſue a more prudent line than by encouraging this country, in its impoveriſhed ſtate, to make new advances to the Emperor. He reverted to the cauſes of the war, and argued on theſe at ſome length. The original cauſes were now loſt and done away.—What was become of the invaſion of Holland?—How had vaniſhed all the formidable apprehenſions reſpecting the opening of the Scheldt? He wiſhed that ſome of our reſources ſhould be reſerved, before we were literally placed at the foot of the enemy. The public property had lately ſuffered a fall of 27 per cent. and this did not proceed from the ſtoppage of the Bank, but from preceding circumſtances. It was not from the apprehenſion of invaſion, the effects of which were now ſufficiently known. It was not from the failure of Lord Malmeſbury's miſſion, which, when fully known, had produced only a depreſſion of four per cent. The Miniſter, however, ſtill held his opinion of our reſources. The Houſe muſt know that the Miniſter had in contemplation another loan of thirty millions. He was of opinion that nothing was left to that Houſe but to retread their ſteps, and to chuſe between the madneſs of the Miniſter and the ruin of the country.

Sir W. Pulteney ſaid, that we ſhould firſt look to our own reſources. If theſe, on inveſtigation, were found ſufficient, it might be prudent to accommodate our allies. He was of opinion, that a ſmall aid ſhould be granted to the Emperor, if ſuch an aid was deemed expedient to the proſecution of the war.

The Houſe divided for the motion of Mr Sheridan

Ayes	-	87
Noes	-	266.

SUPPLY.

SUPPLY.

5. The Houſe having reſolved itſelf into a committee of ſupply,

Mr Windham moved as a reſolution, that it is the opinion of this committee, that a ſum not exceeding 3,280,513l. be granted to his Majeſty for defraying the extraordinary expences of the army from the 25th December 1795, to the 6th December 1796, both days incluſive, and not provided for by Parliament.

General Tarleton deprecated the conduct of miniſters in ſacrificing ſo many valuable lives, and ſquandering ſuch enormous ſums of the public money without ſecuring any one ſolid advantage to the country. Not leſs than thirteen millions, he aſſerted, had been expended in the conqueſt and defence of St Domingo, and we did not at the preſent moment hold a ſingle fort that could reſiſt the attack of 300 men. How many of our brave countrymen had fallen by the ſword and ſickneſs, he could not ſtate; but he had been aſſured by officers from that iſland, that not leſs than 1400 had found an untimely grave in one inſignificant fortreſs.

General Walpole ſaid, he underſtood that there were ſeveral regiments in the Weſt Indies, which had merely a nominal exiſtence. He wiſhed to know whether any returns had been made of what were termed the Weſt India regiments.

Mr Secretary Dundas ſaid, it was true that Government had it in contemplation to raiſe regiments in the Weſt Indies, on account of the mortality among European troops; but the mode of recruiting did not ſucceed. Another plan had been formed, which would ſuperſede the former, and be productive of great advantage to the ſervice.

On the reſumption of the Houſe, the report was ordered to be received to-morrow.

SLAVE TRADE.

6. *Mr C. Ellis* roſe to make his promiſed motion reſpecting the ſlave trade. He concurred, he ſaid, with thoſe gentlemen who had, on various occaſions, voted for the abolition, but he differed diametrically as to the means of obtaining that object. He deprecated the ſyſtem altogether, but having been acted upon for a ſeries of years, he conſidered it as a neceſſary evil, which muſt be endured until it could be aboliſhed without injury to the intereſts of individuals, and without aggravating, inſtead of alleviating the condition of the negroes themſelves. The hon. gentleman next proceeded to inveſtigate the cauſes of the abject ſituation of the negroes, in order to apply a remedy for the amelioration of their condition. The failure in population he imputed to the depravity of their morals and manners, and the diſproportion of ſex, exceſſive labour, and the want of a ſufficient quantity of proper food. He then ſuggeſted what he conceived to be the moſt effectual means of removing thoſe cauſes, which was by the co-operation of the Colonial and the Britiſh legiſlatures—the Britiſh to employ itſelf chiefly in regulating the conveyance from Africa, in order to remove the cauſe of the great mortality that aroſe from ill treatment and bad accomodation, and likewiſe to pay due attention to an equal embarkation of ſex. He concluded by moving to the following effect: That an humble addreſs be preſented to his Majeſty, humbly requeſting that he would be pleaſed to give directions to the governors of the Weſt India iſlands, to recommend it to the ſeveral Councils and Colonial Aſſemblies, to adopt ſuch meaſures as may appear to them beſt calculated to civilize and ameliorate the condition of the negroes, thereby to remove gradually the ſlave trade, and accompliſh its abolition; and likewiſe to aſſure his Majeſty of the readineſs of the Houſe to concur in any meaſure to accelerate this deſirable object.

Mr Barham, in a ſpeech of conſiderable length, ſeconded the motion.

Mr Wilberforce roſe, under evident marks of diſſatisfaction, to deprecate the adoption of the preſent motion. At the ſame time he was ready to give the hon. gentlemen credit for the purity of their intentions; but he declared it to be his opinion, that the meaſures propoſed were by no means calculated to accompliſh the object. He then entered into a hiſtory of the proceedings that had taken place on the ſubject ſince the year 1790; and contended, that the Houſe had already made conſiderably more progreſs in the buſineſs than was comprehended in the preſent motion. He attacked the different poſitions of Mr Ellis; and, after expreſſing his regret that humanity had ſlept ſo long on the ſubject, and reiterating his former ſentiments on the juſtice and the policy of abolition in another way, he contended

t[illegible]

that the plan now propoſed was calculated to heap ruin on the heads of the planters, and accumulated miſery on thoſe the meaſure propoſed to relieve. He then conjured the Houſe to recollect their own reſolutions on this ſubject, which precluded them from agreeing to the preſent motion. Juſtice and conſiſtency of conduct required that they ſhould reject it.

Mr B. Edwards hoped the time was near, when the planters would have an opportunity of vindicating themſelves from the aſperſions that had been ſo lavishly thrown out upon them ſince the firſt agitation of this ſubject. To ſhew the reſpect due to old inſtitutions and authorities, the hon. gentleman ſtated, that Queen Elizabeth was concerned in this ſpecies of traffic, to ſupply the Portugueſe ſettlements with ſlaves, and fitted out a ſquadron of men of war for the protection of the trade. Among the ſhips employed in this then laudable undertaking, were the Jeſus, the Tyger, and the Solomon! The project of abolition, without the conſent and co-operation of the planters, he aſſerted was impracticable; and was it to be expected that the planters, after the ignominious treatment they had experienced, would co-operate with their calumniators? He was confident that they would not. They had been ſtigmatized and treated as criminals by the Britiſh legiſlature, which accounted for their making a common cauſe in oppoſition to it. In ſupport of this aſſertion, he referred to a bill introduced laſt ſeſſion, which provided, that if, after the then enſuing May, any maſter of a ſhip ſhould import from Africa, or elſewhere, into the Weſt Indies, and expoſe to ſale any negro, he ſhould be adjudged guilty of felony, and tranſported to Botany Bay for fourteen years! What was ſtill more remarkable, and repugnant to the profeſſed principle of the bill, the ſhip and cargo ſhould be *ſold*, without the exception of the poor negro, who was *expoſed* to ſale! this, he contended, was an attempt to eſtabliſh a tyranny more oppreſſive than the grievances the bill profeſſed to remedy.

After a long debate, a diviſion took place, when there appeared,

For the motion	99
Againſt it	63
Majority	—36.

7. On a third reading of the corn bill, *Mr Pitt* moved, that the debate be adjourned to this day ſix weeks.

Sir William Pulteney objected to the delay.

A diviſion took place, when there appeared for the adjournment of the debate,

Ayes 113—Noes 58—Majority 60.

BANK BILL.

After ſome amendments had been agreed to,

Sir W. Pulteney conſidered the monopoly of the bank as exceedingly dangerous; at any time, he believed, the bank had it in their power to controul King, Lords, and Commons; it was in their power to put an end to, or continue the war. The hon. Baronet entered upon the hiſtory of the bank, from its inſtitution in 1696 to the preſent time, to ſhew that this monopoly, ſo formidable to the conſtitution, did not exiſt originally but was acquired. It highly imported the intereſts of the country that this monopoly ſhould be deſtroyed, and pointed out the beneficial effects that would ariſe to the public from a competition. He concluded by moving, that in the reſtrictive clauſe, the 6th of May ſhould be ſubſtituted for the 24th of June.

Mr Pitt oppoſed the motion on his former grounds.

Mr Fox ſupported it, and ſaid he would give his ſanction to a competition which would, under the preſent circumſtances, make paper circulation immediately convertible into caſh.

The motion was negatived without a diviſion, and the bill paſſed.—Adjourned.

NEGOTIATION FOR PEACE.

10. *Mr Pollen* roſe, in conformity to notice, to ſubmit a propoſition on the ſubject of negotiation. In doing this, he diſclaimed the idea of being actuated by party motives. He was impelled by conviction of the neceſſity of terminating the war, or convincing the world, that the proſecution of it was owing to the unjuſt demands of the enemy. He then took a review of the calamities produced by it, expatiated on the critical ſituation of this country, and read extracts from the Redacteur of the 24th December, aſſerting that the war was defenſive on the part of France, and that they were deſirous of peace. Theſe he knew were the ſentiments of the Directory, from which it was obvious that the negotiation then pending was broken off by the inſincerity of his Majeſty's mi-

miniſters. In ſupport of this aſſertion, he read a variety of extracts from the correſpondence between Lord Malmeſbury and M. La Croix, and concluded by moving an addreſs to his Majeſty, repreſenting that it appeared, on mature conſideration, from the reſult of the late negotiation, that his Majeſty's gracious and benign intentions had been miſconceived by the government of France, or unexplained to the French nation: the Houſe therefore prayed, that his Majeſty would be pleaſed to adopt ſuch meaſures as he may judge moſt effectual to remove thoſe miſconceptions and miſrepreſentations relative to the ſincerity of his Majeſty's miniſters.

Mr Pitt ſaid, at the preſent conjuncture, the motion could not be productive of any practical benefit to the country, and might prove injurious to freſh negotiations. The hon. gentleman's lamentations on the calamities of war would always prevail, unleſs war could be wholly excluded; but on every evil the Houſe ought to decide on the comparative evil, without ſuffering their judgment to be biaſſed by circumſtances unavoidable in a conteſt founded on juſtice, neceſſity, and ſelf-defence. That inſincerity in the late negotiation was imputable to miniſters, he denied. The failure, he averred, was ſolely to be aſcribed to the extravagant demands of the enemy. The unauthenticated papers, on which ſo much ſtreſs had been laid, contained a groſs miſrepreſentation of facts and fallacious arguments. With reſpect to the addreſs itſelf, it was calculated to encourage the enemy, and embarraſs freſh chances of general pacification. The Houſe had ſeen enough to be convinced, that miniſters are impreſſed with the moſt earneſt deſire for accelerating that deſirable object. If therefore meaſures of this nature are now depending, any thing that may fruſtrate them was dangerous at the preſent criſis. Our views ought to be directed to diſappoint the policy of the enemy, in diſunniting our allies. I have, ſaid Mr Pitt, no difficulty in ſtating that his Majeſty's miniſters are at this moment about to embrace an opportunity for negotiation. In conſequence of the determination expreſſed by the Emperor, not to enter into any negotiation for peace, except in concert with Great Britain, ſteps have been taken for the renewal of a joint negotiation, and his Majeſty has determined to ſend a confidential perſon to Vienna to concert meaſures with the Emperor, for a joint negotiation. Under theſe circumſtances, he hoped the hon. gentleman would not preſs his motion.

Col. Porter contended that miniſters were not actuated by a ſincere deſire to make peace.

Mr Addington combated the topics advanced by Mr Pollen, and entered into a vindication of the miniſter's conduct through the whole of this war, of which he gave a hiſtory of the origin and progreſs, and ſuggeſted the propriety of poſtponing this motion until the event of the negociation alluded to was known. The hon. gentleman then entered on a flattering deſcription of the reſources of the country. We are, he ſaid, in poſſeſſion of abundant wealth. If we act with ſpirit, we ſhall find ourſelves ſtrong; if we act with liberality, we ſhall find ourſelves rich. However he might wiſh for œconomy, it was a narrow, contracted, and ſhallow policy to act at the preſent conjuncture with an unbecoming parſimony. Our intereſts were identified with our honour. Our ſituation ought to arouſe our exertion for the eſtabliſhment of a ſolid and permanent peace. Theſe diſcuſſions were calculated to damp the ſpirits, to unnerve the exertions, and to fruſtrate the object we profeſſed to accompliſh. For the attainment of this object it was, that miniſters had proſecuted the war. Under their conduct the Britiſh navy had attained the higheſt pinnacle of glory, and crippled, and almoſt annihilated the navy of our enemy. It was likewiſe no ſmall advantage that we had preſerved the national honour unſullied, our liberties unimpaired, and ſaved our invaluable conſtitution. He concluded by expreſſing his diſapprobation of the motion, and moving the order of the day.

Mr Fox ſaid, it was impoſſible for him, under the preſſure of calamities at the preſent conjuncture, to give a ſilent vote. The Houſe was again called on to continue their confidence in thoſe men, whoſe councils had been ſo injurious to the country, and whoſe negotiations had been ſo unſucceſsful. In order to evade a propoſition for the Houſe to interfere with the Executive Government, we were now told that a confidential perſon is on the eve of ſetting out for Vienna. Let us examine the circumſtan-

ces

ces attending this embaſſy. When the Auſtrian arms are unſucceſsful, we propoſe negotiation; when the enemy experiences diſaſters, miniſters ſay, What! negotiate, when we are in the career of victory! No; we ſhall dictate a peace. When Lord Malmeſbury went upon his embaſſy, it was during the French victories, the time of all others the leaſt likely to obtain good terms. Much had been ſaid of the miniſter's ſincerity on that occaſion; for his own part, he was ready to believe him ſincere, becauſe it was the preciſe time that peace was leaſt likely to be obtained, and our ambaſſador remained at Paris till the miniſter had negotiated his loan. We were now at the loweſt ebb of credit, a loan is wanted, the Auſtrians are defeated, and the negotiation is renewed! Do not embarraſs our negotiation, ſay the adherents of the miniſter. He would aſk the Houſe, whether a miniſter was likely to negotiate the worſe, becauſe the Houſe was previouſly conſulted? On three or four former occaſions, the miniſter had deprecated the interference of the Houſe, on the ground that it would retard rather than accelerate the negotiation. The Houſe abſtained, and no negotiation took place. In his opinion, the previous concurrence of the Houſe would give dignity and weight to their overtures, and be more likely to bring them to a happy termination. After a few remarks on the nature of the peace, which, he ſaid, ought to be on the principles of equality and juſt compenſation, but, above all, a reconciliation of the reſentments of the reſpective people in order to a permanent peace. To convince both countries that their reſpective governments are not dangerous to each other, and that they are equally capable of maintaining the relations of amity and peace. He concluded by giving his moſt hearty ſupport to the motion.

Sir W. Pulteney ſaid, that he was not ſo eager for an immediate as for a ſecure peace. The ſpirit of this country had riſen ſince the late attempt at an invaſion. Our finances were deranged, but the fault lay chiefly in the management; the country was ſtill wealthy, and our exports and imports increaſing. Our ſituation was inſecure whilſt the enemy was in poſſeſſion of Belgium and Holland. We ſhould, on the firſt knowledge of his diſaſters, have ſent money to the Emperor. This was a criſis when money was to be conſidered as nothing, and when we ſhould ſacrifice every thing.

Col. Fullarton ſaid, that the *quomodo*, or the *quando*—the "how," and the "when" of peace, were not the immediate queſtions before the Houſe. The danger was nearer home. We had heard of a *Democracy*, a *Mobocracy*, &c. but we had been lately governed by a *Bankocracy*. It was neceſſary to ſettle with Monſieur Giles before we went to treat with with Monſieur Delacroix. When we did go to treat again, he hoped it would not be in the ſame unconciliatory ſpirit, and that our envoy ſhould not ſtand behind the ramparts of etiquette. He was of opinion that a general pacification could not be brought about but by a general congreſs of the powers of Europe.

Mr Pollen obſerved, that his motion went ſimply to prevent any miſconception, which had taken place in France, with reſpect to the diſpoſition. He lamented that the ſpeech of Mr Addington had tended to introduce ſo much extraneous matter.

Mr Martin was for the motion.

After which a diviſion took place on the amendment,

Ayes	291
Noes	85

Majority againſt the motion ——206.

On the motion of Mr Pitt, the Houſe adjourned to Thurſday ſen'night.

20. The Houſe met this day in purſuance of the adjournment of the 10th. Several private bills underwent readings, &c.

21. *Mr Pitt* moved, that the order which ſtood for this day, relative to the ſupply, be adjourned to Monday.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MOTION FOR PEACE.

April 24. *Lord Oxford*, in conſequence of the notice he had given, of a Motion for Peace, to which their Lordſhips were ſummoned, roſe, and began to addreſs the Houſe by lamenting that the meaſure he was about to propoſe had not fallen into abler hands. But the ſituation of the country was ſo perilous, that he felt it his duty to come forward, and uſe his efforts to ſave it from the misfortunes with which it was threatened; and as the beſt means of ſaving the country would be an immediate peace, he ſhould move an Addreſs to the King, ſoliciting his Majeſty to take the proper ſteps to bring

about ſuch a deſirable event. His Lordſhip argued that the Directory had long been deſirous of peace, and he quoted, in ſupport of his opinion, Barthelemy's note of the 26th of March 1796, which in anſwer to Mr Wickham ſays, "the Directory ardently deſires to procure for the French republic a juſt, honourable, and ſolid peace." He next quoted the order of the Directory, dated 9th Vendemaire, to grant Lord Malmeſbury a paſſport, in which they ſay "they with to give a proof of the deſire they entertain to make peace with England;" and after reading extracts from Delacroix's note of the 19th December, and other papers relative to Lord Malmeſbury's negotiation, he maintained that the Directory had always evinced a ſincere deſire for peace. With regard to the demand of Belgium made by the French government, he ſaid, ſince they poſſeſſed all the countries on the left bank of the Rhine, and ſince it did not appear that the Allies would be able to diſlodge them from thence, it would be very vain to hope for the reſtoration of Belgium to the Emperor; eſpecially as the French were determined to retain it, and the means of this country to carry on the war were daily growing weaker. He concluded by moving a long Addreſs to his Majeſty, recapitulating the circumſtances of the late negotiation, and praying his Majeſty to take every meaſure, conſiſtent with the honour and ſafety of the country, to attain the bleſſings of peace.

Lord Grenville roſe, and ſaid, he did not feel himſelf called upon to make any anſwer to the Noble Earl. He would therefore content himſelf with moving, "That the Addreſs of the Houſe to his Majeſty on the 30th of December laſt, on the ſame ſubject, might be read." This being done by the Clerk, the queſtion was about to be put, when

The Duke of Norfolk roſe, and ſaid, that Miniſters had reduced the country and themſelves to ſuch a ſituation, that they could not make peace with honour and advantage to the country, and this might be the reaſon why they were unwilling to enter into a diſcuſſion on the preſent queſtion. The Noble Secretary thinks the Addreſs of the Houſe, on the 30th of December, is a complete anſwer to the preſent motion, but he with others differed from him on that point. It was unfortunately true that the Houſe had voted the Addreſs, juſt read, on the 30th of December, but it did not follow that the Houſe ſhould not again conſider the opinion it then gave, and even change it, if that were thought a wiſe meaſure. It was not unbecoming a great aſſembly to reconſider their proceedings, and repair their errors; and even admitting that the Houſe was right on the 30th of December, it did not follow, that they would now be right in adhering to the opinion they then gave, the ſituation of things having altered very much ſince that period:—ſince that period the French had completely reduced Italy, of which it might have been then thought they had but a precarious poſſeſſion.—Since that period, an event ſtill more unfortunate had taken place; the Bank of England had ſtopped payment, and our means of carrying on the war had received as ſevere a ſhock as the Emperor's hopes of ſucceſs. No one could blame Lord Malmeſbury for his conduct in the negotiation. He had done every thing that could have been expected of him, but he went to Paris ſo ſhackled, that it was out of his power to bring about any happy concluſion of his miſſion. The queſtion reſpecting Belgium ſhould have been decided in the firſt inſtance, and then the negotiation would not have been protracted to ſuch an unneceſſary length; but his Grace ſuſpected it was deſignedly protracted, to give time and opportunity for Miniſters to play off thoſe tricks and intrigues by which all their conduct was marked. His Grace now compared the ſituation in which Miniſters might have negotiated, when the Allies were at the gates of Valenciennes, with the ſituation in which they negotiated in October 1796, when the French were far advanced into Germany, and in Italy their arms were victorious. Had Miniſters negotiated when the Allies were at Valenciennes, Belgium might not only have been reſtored to the Emperor, but very advantageous terms of peace might have been obtained. Our ſituation was now, indeed, moſt lamentably altered, and if Miniſters proceeded in the war, it would ſtill grow worſe. There was no hopes of reſtoring Belgium to the Emperor. The French had gained it by conqueſt, and by the right of conqueſt they held it. They held it by the ſame right by which we kept poſſeſſion of the Cape of Good Hope, and they had a right to inſiſt on

retaining it, if they thought proper. His Grace thought the preſent queſtion ought to have a full and fair conſideration. The public wiſhed for peace, and it was the duty of the Houſe to make every effort to obtain it.

The Marquis of Lanſdowne felt it his duty to ſupport the motion. When we conſidered the calamities of the times, it was peculiarly proper to adopt the preſent motion, becauſe peace alone could reſtore the country to its former condition. It had been reported that Miniſters had it in contemplation to make paper a legal tender. If that was done, it ſhould be done quickly; for he was convinced the greateſt misfortunes would fall on trade if ſuch a meaſure was not inſtantly taken. He doubted whether peace could reſtore the credit of the country; but it was the thing, of all others, the moſt likely to reſtore it; and therefore he wiſhed to ſee Miniſters ſet about the work in earneſt.—He concluded by obſerving, that if Miniſters did not know how to make peace, they ſhould reſign their ſituations.

Earl Guildford had no doubt they wiſhed for peace; ſuch a peace as they wiſhed for. But he did not think they wiſhed for an attainable peace, or he would vote againſt the motion.—Miniſters never would make peace till they were driven to it by Parliament and the country.

The Duke of Bedford cenſured the precipitate manner in which the Addreſs of the 30th of December was brought forward; he remarked, that the laſt Parliament had receded from their high language reſpecting France, and hoped this Parliament would renounce the opinions contained in that Addreſs. He would now ſay, what he had long refrained from declaring, That it was impoſſible for the preſent Miniſters to make ſuch a peace as the country had a right to demand; and he was convinced that this was not only his opinion, but the opinion of the country, and even of the majority of that Houſe. Lord Malmeſbury's refuſal to give up Belgium was, he ſaid, an ultimatum.

The Earl of Carliſle was decidedly againſt the motion. He was ſurpriſed to hear the ſincerity of Miniſters in their wiſhes for peace doubted. He ſaw no poſſible reaſon why they ſhould be otherwiſe.

The Earl of Darnley ſaid a few words, and was proceeding to enter at length into the argument; but the Houſe becoming impatient for the queſtion, he ſat down. At length the Houſe divided.

Againſt the Motion	52	Proxies 19
For it	16	1

24. The royal aſſent was given to the bill for indemnifying innkeepers, and to twenty-nine road, incloſure, and naturaliſation bills. The commiſſioners were the Lord Chancellor, Earls of Weſtmoreland and Liverpool.

The Duke of Grafton ſaid, he was ſurpriſed that none of his Majeſty's officers or ſervants had attended this day in the Houſe, when, during the receſs, the public prints had been filled with three moſt important ſubjects—the Emperor's negotiation for a ſeparate peace; the great diſturbances in Ireland; and the mutiny in the fleet at Portſmouth. If theſe were facts, why then, ſurely, it was not too much to have ſuppoſed ſome meſſage would have come from his Majeſty; and it became the duty of that Houſe to prove they were not what he had too often heard them termed, inſtead of Hereditary Counſellors of the Crown, merely a Court to regiſter the Edicts of the Miniſter:—it was neceſſary, for their own ſakes, to prove they were not ſo, or they would too ſoon find they would ſink into that contempt which, he was free to ſay, in that caſe, they would deſerve.

The Lord Chancellor ſaid, that, as far as he knew, no official intelligence had been received from the Emperor reſpecting the peace; but that he underſtood a mail had arrived within theſe few hours, the contents of which he had not heard. With reſpect to Ireland, in his opinion, the newſpaper accounts were much exaggerated; and as to the mutiny, the ſailors had returned to their duty, and all was perfectly quiet. There could be no doubt, however, that the noble perſons alluded to would be in their places to-morrow.

The Duke of Grafton ſaid a few words in reply, and then the Houſe adjourned till to-morrow.

From this to the 28th, the attention of the Houſe was taken up in hearing bills, public and private, wherein no debates of public conſequence took place.

CON-

GAZETTE INTELLIGENCE.

Downing ſtreet, May 2.

Extract of a letter from Col. Craufurd to Lord Grenville, dated Francfort, April 19.

I have the honour to inform your Lordſhip, that General Hoche yeſterday attacked, with very ſuperior numbers, and defeated an Auſtrian corps, commanded by General Kray, which formed a part of the army of the Lower Rhine, under the orders of General Werneck, and was ſtationed at Thurdorf, on the road leading from Neuwied to Hachenburg. In conſequence of that circumſtance, General Werneck, who was with the principal part of his army near Crobach, between Hachenburg and Altenkirkchen, has determined to retreat.

Captures from the Gazettes.

A Spaniſh privateer, of 18 guns, and 120 men, by the Lapwing, Capt. Barton, in the Weſt Indies.

A French brig privateer, of 14 guns, and 67 men, by the Spitfire, Capt. Seymour.

Two Spaniſh frigates, of 32 guns, and 320 men each, by the Irreſiſtible and Emerald frigates. One of them run on ſhore, and though ſhe was got off, they could not keep her afloat.

A French privateer, by the Boſton frigate, Capt. Morris.

The Flibuſter, privateer, of 14 guns, and 70 men, by the Spider ſchooner, Lieutenant Digby Dent.

The Jalouſe, national corvette, of 16 guns, and 151 men, by the Veſtal frigate.

A privateer of 16 guns, and 120 men, by Sir Edward Pellew's ſquadron.

Beſides ſeveral other ſmall privateers of 8, 6, and 4 guns.

CONTINENTAL INTELLIGENCE.

IN our laſt number, p. 283, we mentioned the great ſucceſſes which had attended the French armies. The following is a ſummary account of the loſſes ſuſtained by the Auſtrians in theſe battles:

Taken priſoners—9 Generals, 1 Colonel, 13,630 officers of inferior rank and privates, and 50 huſſars horſes, beſides the priſoners taken at the battle of Tarvis;—30,000 rations of bread;—48 pieces of cannon;—400 baggage waggons at La Chiuſe;—8 ſtandards;—Mines of d'Ydria, of which two millions in ſubſtance are prepared;—and all the magazines of proviſions and warlike ſtores at Goritz.

Since theſe unfortunate events the Emperor has been compelled to enter into a negotiation; and accordingly a meſſage from the Directory has been communicated to the Council of Five Hundred reſpecting the Preliminaries of Peace between France and the Emperor, announcing that hoſtilities through Germany have ceaſed every where. The baſis of theſe preliminaries, approved by the Executive Directory, are,—*The ceſſion of Belgium by the Emperor and King:—The acknowledgement of the limits of France, ſuch as they have been decreed by the laws of the Republic:—The eſtabliſhment and the independence of a Republic in Lombardy.*

The Legiſlative Body has decreed the day of the ſigning of the preliminaries of peace to be a day of rejoicing; and that a column ſhall be erected *in gratitude to the brave defenders of the Republic.*

The Emperor recognizes the independence of the Batavian Republic. He receives as an indemnification a part of the Terra Firma of Venice;—Venice is to receive in exchange the Legations of Bologna and Ferrara. There is to be a congreſs at Berne, to regulate the definitive articles. The two powers ſhall invite their Allies to be preſent at a Congreſs to treat for a General Peace.

Mantua is to be reſtored to the Emperor.

LONDON.

April 28. A Council was held at St James's, at which the King ſigned the inſtrument of his conſent for the marriage of her Royal Highneſs the Princeſs Royal, with his Serene Highneſs the Hereditary Prince of Wirtemberg.

27. The reſolutions of the Admiralty, for increaſing the wages of ſeamen, &c. were read on board the reſpective ſhips in Yarmouth roads, and were received by the crews with the moſt lively expreſſions of gratitude; and the following addreſs of thanks has been returned by the ſeamen of the fleet.

Venerable, April 27, 1797.

"The ſeamen of the north ſea fleet, beg leave to return their grateful thanks to the Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty, for their ready compliance with the humble requeſt of their worthy companions in the channel fleet: at the ſame time to convince their Lordſhips of our united and ſteady ſupport of his Majeſ-

ty

ty and our country, we will at all times risk every thing that is dear to men: have only to regret, from the situation of the enemy we are opposed to, it has not been in our power to shew the nation we wish to do our duty, and honour to our country and worthy commander in chief.

SEAMEN, Yarmouth Roads."

May 11. A Common Hall was held at Guildhall, when several resolutions were moved and passed; the objects of which were, to assert the right of the Livery of London to address the Sovereign on the Throne; to recommend the removal of Ministers, as a measure most likely to expedite the return of peace; and to censure the conduct of the Lord Mayor.

Since which, a meeting of the Livery has been held, and the following declaration agreed to:

"We the under-signed Livery of London, think it necessary to make this public declaration of our dissent and full disapprobation of the several violent proceedings, at the three last Common Hallsheld in this City.

"In common with our fellow citizens, we deplore the evils of war, and earnestly pray for the return of peace; We have beheld, with satisfaction, the repeated efforts of Government to put an end to hostilities; and we trust those efforts will be continued, *until such a peace may be obtained as Englishmen ought to desire*—such a peace as may preserve the independence, the honour, and the commercial interests of this great nation.

"*And we think it expedient further to declare* our aversion and abhorrence of all proceedings tending to excite discord, at a time when unanimity is so essentially necessary; or to sanction measures of turbulence, when the good order of the country is the imperious duty of every Briton to maintain. Every deviation from that line of conduct must stimulate our enemies to rise in their demands; and must place the prospect of reconciliation at a greater distance.

"*In the name of peace, then, we subscribe:* And we invite our brethren of the Livery to join us in giving our Sovereign that faithful support which we owe to him, and to our fellow subjects throughout the United Kingdoms, that example which will best tend to secure our national happiness, and to preserve to ourselves, and to our posterity, the advantages of our free Constitution."

14. On Wednesday afternoon, the coronor's inquest sat on the bodies of the three seamen who died in Haslar hospital, in consequence of the wounds they received on board the London, Vice Admiral Colpoys, when the delegates attempted to come on board.—The coroners have delivered in their verdict on the delegates lately shot and killed, and have reported—Justifiable homicide.

15. The Duke of Wirtemberg arrived from Germany: He was visited soon after by the Prince of Wales, the Dukes of York and Gloucester, and several of the nobility and gentry. His Serene Highness set out on a tour to several places in the country, previous to his marriage.

16. The following orders were read by the serjeants of the guards at the head of each company of the Coldstream regiment, by command of the Duke of York:

Brigade of Guards, May 14.

"The non-commissioned officers will explain to the men, that in consequence of their uniform good conduct, it is at present under consideration, at the particular recommendation of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, to make their condition more comfortable than it has hitherto been; and the non commissioned officers will be duly attended to at the same time."

The soldiers, as soon as it had been read, exclaimed with one voice, "God bless the Duke of York."

18. This day, the solemnity of the marriage of his Serene Highness Frederick William, Hereditary Prince of Wirtemberg Stutgarde, with Charlotte Augusta Matilda, Princess Royal of Great Britain, Lady of the Imperial order of Russia of St Catherine, and eldest daughter of King George III. was performed in the Chapel Royal, by the Archbishop of Canterbury. After the ceremony, their Majesties, with the rest of the Royal Family, passed into the great council-chamber, where the great officers, nobility, foreign ministers, and other persons of distinction, paid their compliments on the occasion; which were received by the bride and bridegroom in her Majesty's apartment. The order of procession was the same as at the marriage of the Prince of Wales.—See vol. 57. p. 267.

The Common Council have voted a dutiful and loyal address on the occasion.

MUTINY

MUTINY AT PORTSMOUTH.

The mutiny of the failors on board the grand fleet at Portfmouth, is a matter fo uncommon, and fo intereſting to the country, that we fhall give the official correfpondence regarding it at full length.

PETITIONS OF THE SEAMEN OF THE BRITISH NAVY.

To the Right Honourable and the Honourable Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes in Parliament aſſembled,

The humble *Petition* of the Seamen and Mariners on board his Majeſty's ſhips in behalf of themſelves,

Humbly ſheweth,

THAT your petitioners, relying on the candour and juſtice of your hon. houſe, make bold to lay their grievances before you, hoping, that when you reflect on them, you will pleaſe to give redreſs, as far as your wiſdom ſhall deem neceſſary.

We beg leave to remind your auguſt Aſſembly, that the Act of Parliament paſſed in the reign of King Charles II. wherein the wages of all ſeamen ſerving on board his Majeſty's fleet was ſettled, paſſed at a time when the neceſſaries of life, and ſlops of every denomination were at leaſt 30 per cent. cheaper than at the preſent time; which enabled ſeamen and mariners to provide better for their families, than we can now do with one half advance.

We therefore requeſt your hon. houſe will be ſo kind as to revite the act before mentioned, and make ſuch amendments therein, as will enable your petitioners and their families to live in the ſame comfortable manner as ſeamen and mariners did at that time.

Your petitioners, with all humility, laid their grievances before the Hon. Earl Howe, and flattered ourſelves with the hopes that his Lordſhip would have been an advocate for us, as we have been repeatedly under his command, and made the Britiſh flag ride triumphantly over that of our enemies. But to our great ſurprize, we find ourſelves unprotected by him who has ſeen ſo many inſtances of our intrepidity, in carrying the Britiſh flag into every part of the ſeas with victory and ſucceſs.

We profeſs ourſelves as loyal to our Sovereign, and zealous in the defence of our country, as the army or militia can be, and eſteem ourſelves equally entitled to his Majeſty's munificence; therefore with jealouſy we behold their pay augmented, and their out-penſions of Chelſea College increaſed to thirteen pounds per annum, while we remain neglected, and the out-penſioners of Greenwich have only ſeven pounds per annum.

We, your petitioners, therefore, humbly implore that you would take theſe matters into conſideration, and with your accuſtomed goodneſs and liberality, comply with the prayer of this petition, and your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

We the Delegates of the Fleet, hereunto ſign our names for the ſhip's companies:

Royal George	Val. Joyce, John Morrice
Queen Charlotte	Pat. Glynn, John Udleſon
Royal Sovereign	Joſ. Green, J. Richardſon
London	Alex. Harding, Wm Ruſh
Glory	Pat. Dugan, John Bethel
Duke	Mic. Adams, W. Anderſon
Mars	Thomas Allen, Ja. Blythe
Marlborough	John Vaſſia, Wm Senator
Rawlies	Charles Berry, Geo. Clear
Robuſt	Dav. Wilſon, J. Scrivener
L'Inſpecteur	John Witna, Wm Porter
Defence	Geo. Galaway, Ja. Barerick
Terrible	Mark Turner, Geo. Salked
La Pompee	William Potts, Ja. Melvin
Minotaur	Denis Lawley, J. Croisland
Defiance	Jo. Saunders, J. Huſband.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty.

MY LORDS,

We, the ſeamen of his Majeſty's Navy, take the liberty of addreſſing your Lordſhips, in an humble petition, ſhewing the many hardſhips and oppreſſions we have laboured under for many years, and which we hope your Lordſhips will redreſs, as ſoon as poſſible: we flatter ourſelves that your Lordſhips, together with the nation in general, will acknowledge our worth and good ſervices, both in the American war as well as the preſent; for which good ſervice your Lordſhips petitioners do unanimouſly agree in opinion, that their worth to the nation, and laborious induſtry in defence of their country, deſerve ſome better encouragement than that we meet with at preſent; or from any we have experienced. We, your petitioners, do not boaſt of our good ſervices for any other purpoſe than that of putting you and the nation in mind of the reſpect due to us, nor do we ever intend to deviate from our former character. So far from any thing of that kind, or that an Engliſhman or men ſhould turn their coats: we likewiſe agree in opinion, that we ſhould ſuffer double the hardſhips we have hitherto experienced before we would ſuffer the Crown of England to be in the leaſt impoſed upon by that of any other power in the world; we therefore beg leave to inform your Lordſhips of the grievances of which we at preſent labour under.

We, your humble petitioners, relying that your Lordſhips will take into early conſideration the grievances of which we complain,

and

and do not in the leaſt doubt but your Lordſhips will comply with our deſires, which are every way reaſonable.

The firſt grievance which we have to complain of is, that our wages are too low and ought to be raiſed, that we might be the better able to ſupport our wives and families in a manner comfortable, and whom we are in duty bound to ſupport as far as our wages will allow, which we truſt will be looked into by your Lordſhips, and the Honourable Houſe of Commons in Parliament aſſembled.

We, your petitioners, beg that your Lordſhips will take into conſideration the grievances of which we complain, and now lay before you.

Firſt, That our proviſions be raiſed to the weight of ſixteen ounces to the pound, and of a better quality, and that our meaſures may be the ſame as thoſe uſed in the commercial trade of this country.

Secondly, That your petitioners requeſt your Honours will be pleaſed to obſerve there ſhould be no flour ſerved while we are in harbour, in any port whatever, under the command of the Britiſh Flag; and alſo that there might be granted a ſufficient quantity of vegetables of ſuch kind as may be the moſt plentiful in the ports to which we go; which we grievouſly complain and lay under the want of.

Thirdly, That your Lordſhips will be pleaſed ſeriouſly to look into the ſtate of the ſick on board his Majeſty's ſhips, that they may be better attended to, and that they may have the uſe of ſuch neceſſaries as are allowed for them in time of their ſickneſs, and that thoſe neceſſaries be not on any account embezzled.

Fourthly, That your Lordſhips will be ſo kind as to look into this affair, which is to wife unreaſonable, and that we may be looked upon as a number of men ſtanding in defence of our country, and that we may in ſome wife have granted an opportunity to taſte the ſweets of liberty on ſhore, when in any harbour, and when we have completed the duty of our ſhip, after our return from ſea; and that no man may encroach upon his liberty, there ſhall be a boundary limited, and thoſe treſpaſſing any further, without a written order from the Commanding Officer, ſhall be puniſhed according to the rules of the navy, which is a natural requeſt, and congenial to the heart of man, and certainly to us, that you make the boaſt of being the Guardians of the Land.

Fifthly, That if any man is wounded in action, his pay be continued until he is cured, and diſcharged; and if any ſhip has any real grievances to complain of, we hope your Lordſhips will readily redreſs them, as far as in your power, to prevent any diſturbances.

It is alſo unanimouſly agreed by the Fleet, that from THIS DAY, no grievances ſhall be received; in order to convince the nation at large, that we know when to ceaſe to aſk, as well as to begin, and that we aſk nothing but what is moderate, and may be granted without detriment to the nation, or injury to the ſervice.

Given on board the Queen Charlotte, by the Delegates of the Fleet, on this 18th day of April 1797.

[The grand fleet, under the command of Lord Bridport ſailed, May 17, on a cruize in the Bay of Biſcay, all diſputes being ſettled.—The ſequel of the mutiny will be given in our next.]

IRELAND.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

April 29. *Mr Pelham* preſented the following meſſage from the Lord Lieutenant to the Houſe of Commons:

"CAMDEN,

"Upon information of the meetings of certain perſons, ſtiling themſelves *United Iriſhmen*, for the purpoſe of concerting plans for the ſubverſion of the Conſtitution, and of the eſtabliſhed Government of this Kingdom, two committees in the town of Belfaſt have been arreſted, and their papers ſeized. They contain matter of ſo much importance to the public welfare, that I have directed them to be laid before the Houſe of Commons, and I recommend it to them to take the ſame into their ſerious conſideration.

"I ſhall in the mean time, purſue thoſe meaſures which have received your ſanction and approbation with unremitting vigour, and employ the force entruſted to me in the moſt efficient manner for the protection of his Majeſty's faithful ſubjects againſt all treaſonable deſigns, and for bringing to condign puniſhment thoſe who are endeavouring to overturn the Conſtitution, and betray this country into the hands of her enemies."

A ſecret committee was appointed to inquire into the cauſes and conſequences of the meetings which his Excellency's meſſage pointed at, and to inveſtigate the ſeveral papers which had been ſeized, and which he would lay before them.

May 10. *Mr Pelham* preſented a report from the Secret Committee, which was ordered to be read by the clerk. The contents were exceedingly multifarious, and went into ſuch minute, various,

and extenſive information, that we can give but a ſlight abſtract of its contents.

The report ſtated that papers to which it related, correſponded with the riſe and progreſs of the ſociety called *United Iriſhmen*, from the foundation of that ſociety by T. W. Tone to the preſent time; that their objects were evidently the overthrow of the preſent conſtitution and government of this kingdom, and the erection of a Republic on their ruins. The report alſo ſtated, that ſome time in the month of April laſt, Colonel Barber ſeized the papers of three ſeveral ſocieties, then ſitting in a houſe at Belfaſt, and from the minutes of their proceedings (read at great length by the clerk), it appeared that a ſecret army of vaſt numbers was organized, regularly officered, and as regularly armed as the circumſtances under which it was formed would admit of; that magazines were forming, the deficiencies of regular arms made up with pikes, and ſubſcriptions aſſiduouſly promoted. From the different ſocieties throughout the kingdom there are delegates appointed, and from theſe again committee men, to form financial, military, and executive departments. The number of men enliſted under this revolutionary ſyſtem in the north, appears from the report to be more than 124,000, and theſe are armed with muſkets and bayonets, ſwords, piſtols, and pikes, beſide a large magazine of ammunition, together with ſome pieces of artillery. It appeared from the report, that this force was ſo conſtituted as to be called into action at one day's notice, and to effect this the original papers run in theſe words; "that no time is to be loſt, for our friends are hourly expected."

It decidedly appeared to the committee, that reform has hitherto only been a colourable object, to deceive the people—and the ſubverſion of the conſtitution is the real principle of theſe ſocieties.—The report being read

Mr Pelham, after a ſhort but impreſſive appeal to the loyalty, patriotiſm, and the paſſion, but more immediate feelings of the Houſe, moved that a copy of the report be ſent to the Lords Secret Committee—and alſo moved that the report be printed—Agreed to.

15. *Mr Fonſonby* roſe to make his promiſed motion for reform. He conſidered a complete reform in the repreſentation of the people, and reſtoring the conſtitution to its original purity, as the meaſure likely to tranquillize the country. He believed the majority of the turbulent in the north would be quieted by ſuch a conceſſion. Mr Fonſonby concluded by moving ſeveral reſolutions (which he wiſhed to refer to a committee of the whole Houſe) to the following purport: That all diſability in religious opinions ſhould ceaſe for ever; and for that purpoſe it was neceſſary the Catholics ſhould be eligible to Parliament, and to all civil offices: That a complete repreſentation of the people ſhould take place; and for this it was neceſſary that all boroughs ſhould be thrown open, and the kingdom divided into diſtricts, each diſtrict to contain 5000 houſes, and to ſend three members to Parliament at moſt.

At a quarter paſt five in the morning, the Houſe divided upon the queſtion of adjournment. Ayes 117—Noes 30
Majority 87.

EDINBURGH.

May 10. This day the Duke of Buccleugh, accompanied by a number of gentlemen, went to Newhaven, where the fiſhermen of that diſtrict were convened together. His Grace addreſſed them in a ſuitable ſpeech, and then inveſted their boxmaſter with a handſome ſilver medal and chain, which had been voted by the county. On one ſide of the medal is the following inſcription:

"In teſtimony of the brave and patriotic offer of the Fiſhermen of Newhaven, to defend the coaſts againſt the enemy, this honorary mark of approbation was voted by the county of Mid Lothian, November 2. 1796."

On the other ſide is a Scots Thiſtle, above which are theſe words, NEMO ME IMPUNE LACESSET; and under it, AGMINE REMORUM CELERI.

16. William Stewart, Eſq of Ardvorlich, one of the Depute Lieutenants for Perthſhire, appeared at the head of 200 ſtout clever young men, clothed in a handſome uniform at their own expence, conſiſting of a blue cloth ſhort coat, with a ſcarlet neck, and 42d regiment tartan philibeg and plaid. This corps was raiſed in a few days. Their decent and cheerful appearance in their uniform clearly manifeſted, that the martial ſpirit of the Highlanders is not yet extinct, and alſo pointed out the influence country gentlemen may poſſeſs among their tenants and neighbours, by perſonal reſidence, and a kind attention to the welfare of the common people.

17. This day the firſt battalion of the ſecond regiment of Royal Edinburgh Volunteers received their colours in Burntsfield Links. His Grace the Duke of Buccleugh, their Colonel, gave the word of command, and the colours were preſented by his Grace's daughters, Lady Caroline and Lady Harriet. The regiment then formed a hollow ſquare, when the Rev. David Ritchie, their Chaplain, in a ſuitable prayer, conſecrated the two ſtandards. On this occaſion the firſt regiment of Royal Edinburgh Volunteers attended, and likewiſe the Royal Edinburgh Volunteer Light Dragoons in their dreſs uniform.

Edinburgh has now a defenſive phalanx worthy of the metropolis of Scotland;—including cavalry, infantry, and artillery, it amounts nearly to 3000 men.

About 70 privates of the Monaghan militia have acknowledged themſelves guilty of taking the teſt of the United Iriſhmen.

The ſtorm of thunder and lightning which happened on the 19th, by various accounts, ſeems to have extended over all the northern parts of England. The peals of thunder ſucceeded with ſuch rapidity, that the ſlates on the roofs of houſes were, for ſeveral minutes, agitated by a tremulous motion. This tremendous roll of thunder laſted for more than 20 minutes; the fall of rain during that period, being only to be compared to the burſting of a water ſpout, and the lightning was inceſſant, and very bright.

19. Colonel Corbet, in preſence of the committee of management of the Royal Glaſgow Volunteer Corps, preſented Mr Mark Reid, Quarter-maſter ſergeant, with an elegant ſword, for his very uſeful and diligent attention to that corps.

The Mid-Lothian ſencible regiment of cavalry were landed on the 22d, at Dublin, after a tedious paſſage from Liverpool.

23. This day the gold medal given by the Society of Golfers to the beſt player of the Edinburgh Club, was played for over the Links of Leith, and gained by Mr Robert Allan.

25. The Houſe of Lords have declared the Earl of Errol duly elected a Scots peer.

At Montroſe on the 25th, being the fair day, an unfortunate quarrel happened there, between the Rutlandſhire Fencible Cavalry and the inhabitants, in which ſome of the latter, we are ſorry to hear, were hurt and wounded. The cavalry have left the town, and the Montroſe Volunteers do duty in their room.

CIRCUITS.

(*Continued from p.* 287.)

April 5. The Court was opened at Jedburgh by the Right Hon. Lord Juſtice Clerk. Iſobel Fleming, accuſed of child-murder, was baniſhed from Scotland for life, upon her own petition, with the conſent of the Advocate-Depute.

11. The Circuit Court was opened at Dumfries by the Right Hon. Lord juſtice Clerk and Lord Craig. John Muir, accuſed of beating and bruiſing John M'Farlane, being found guilty, was ſentenced to one month's impriſonment in Kircudbright jail; to find caution to keep the peace for three years; and found liable to pay 8ol. in name of expences, and 7ol. to the ſaid John M'Farlane, in name of damages.

15. The Circuit Court was opened at Ayr by the Right Hon. Lord Craig. John Reid and James Miller, weavers in Beith, accuſed of robbery, and William Fulton, innkeeper, accuſed of obſtructing and deforcing a meſſenger at arms in the execution of his duty, were all fugitated for not appearing.

22. The Circuit Court was opened at Stirling by the Right Hon. Lord Elkgrove. Janet Moodie, wife of Robert Black, mariner, accuſed of adminiſtering poiſon to her huſband, was outlawed for non-appearance. Two other indictments, for aſſault and battery, had been taken out for this Circuit; but theſe matters having been ſettled before the Court arrived, there was no other buſineſs.

26. The Circuit Court was opened at Glaſgow by the Right Hon. Lords Elkgrove and Methven, with the trial of Alexander Campbell, for the murder of ——— M'Leod, cotton-ſpinner, on one of the ſtreets of that city, by ſtabbing him with a knife, on the morning of the 17th October. The Jury returned a verdict, finding, by a plurality of voices, the libel not proven; whereupon he was abſoilzied from the bar.—Janet M'Dougall, accuſed of child-murder, was fugitated for non-appearance.—John Pollock, portioner of Flander, in the parith of Mearns, and David Hunter, ſervant to Adam Reid, carrier betwixt Glaſgow and Ayr, accuſed of having been the cauſe of the death of William Arbuckle. The Jury returned a verdict, unanimouſ-

ly finding the pannels not guilty, who were therefore affoilzied and dismiſſed. —Elizabeth Setter, ſometime reſidenter in Paiſley, accuſed of theft, was, upon her own petition, baniſhed from Scotland for fourteen years, under the uſual certification.—Donald Martin, alias Cameron, ſometime reſidenter at Nairn, Duncan Martin, alias Cameron, ſometime labourer at Rutherglen, and [illegible] M'Donald, alias Kennedy, ſometime reſidenter at Well Quarter, were [illegible] before the Court, accuſed of [illegible] on account of ſome material [illegible] could not at preſent be [illegible], the diet was deſerted [illegible].—No buſineſs before the Court at Inverary.

The cold weather during April continued [illegible] 12th or 13th of May, when a ſu[illegible] and agreeable change took place; [illegible] the 14th there fell a ſnow. The [illegible] has been from 40 to 50. Some favourable ſhowers have brought forward the hay crop exceedingly, ſo that there is great [illegible] of abundance. Indeed every crop looks well, though not ſo forward as uſual. The markets, which is very remarkable, rather higher than laſt month: Beſt beef 9d; beſt mutton 9d; veal and lamb proportionably dear.

The Engliſh report for April ſtates, that this month has been leſs favourable to Agriculture than the laſt. The rains which fell in the beginning of it brought forward the Kent corn very bulkily; the barley, in particular, looks uncommonly well; and the wheat much better than could have been expected. In the northern counties, the cold eaſterly winds have, however, much checked the influence of the rains; the early nights of the 12th, 13th, and 14th, were felt univerſally, but not in a degree ſufficient to do any conſiderable damage. Upon the whole, the face of the country has ſeldom worn a more favourable appearance than it has during the laſt month. Covers and artificial graſſes promiſe good crops, and in ſome places they have been hooked nearly a fortnight. The pinched cattle and ſheep have conſiderably ſhuffled in various diſtricts. In Smithfield market, beſt beaſts from 3s. 8d. to 4s. 6d; and inferior ſorts to 5s. per ſtone; in the other London markets, from 2d. to 2½d. per lb. Grain of all kinds continues to fall in value. The average for England and Wales of Wheat is 45s.; barley 31s. Horſes, as well as pigs, are low; the latter is cheaper than any other butcher's meat. The wool market is wholly at a ſtand.

[illegible] Edinburgh, No. 2. firſt line of [illegible]

LISTS.

MARRIAGES.

Capt. Alexander Dyce, of the Eaſt India Company's ſervice, to Miſs Mary Campbell, daughter of the late Neil Campbell, Eſq; of Dunroon.

April 27. At Belladrum, William Fraſer, Eſq; younger of Caillbokie, to Miſs Sarah Fraſer, daughter of Colonel James Fraſer of Belladrum.

May 1. Earl of Derby to Miſs Farren, the celebrated actreſs.

11. At London, the Rev. Wm Holwell, to Lady Charlotte Hay, daughter of the late Earl of Errol.

12. Major Dive, of the Fifeſhire fencibles, to Miſs Rolleſton, of Carrickfergus.

15. Andrew Thomſon, Eſq; of Banchory, to Miſs Helen Hamilton, daughter of Dr Hamilton, Marſchal College, Aberdeen.

19. At Yeller, Henry Scott, Eſq; of Belford, to Miſs Catharine Macdougall, daughter of Allan Macdougall, Eſq; W. S.

BIRTHS.

April 24. Mrs Hay of Mounblairy, a daughter.

May 1. Mrs Stewart, Delguiſe, a daughter.

7. Mrs Grant of Rothemurchus, a daughter.

12. Mrs Colonel Macdonel, younger of Lochgary, a daughter.

13. Counteſs of Northeſk, a daughter.

18. Mrs Captain Sutherland of Uppat, a daughter.

19. Lady Naſmyth, a daughter.

26. Mrs Col. Hay, Queen Street, a daughter.

— At Inverеſk, the Lady of Francis Charteris, Eſq; a ſon.

DEATHS.

At Potterells, Hertfordſhire, aged 85, Mrs Grant, relict of Duncan Grant, Eſq; late of the iſland of Antigua.

At Port L'Orient, in France, the Right Hon. Lord Viſcount Kingſland, of the kingdom of Ireland.

(Remainder delayed till next Number.)

Prices of Grain at Haddington, May 20.

Wheat, 22s. Barley, 17s. 6d. Oats, 11s. 6d. Peaſe, 10s. 6d. Beans 10s. 6d.

Edinburgh, May 30. Oat-meal, 12d. Beſt-meal, 8d. Peaſe-meal, 7d.

PRICES OF STOCKS.

May 12.	May 24.
Bank Stock ——	——
3 per cent. red. 47¼	47½
3 per cent. con. 48⅛	48½
4 per cent. 61 60	60½
India Stock ——	——
India Bonds 34s. diſc.	diſc.

THE SCOTS MAGAZINE,

For JUNE 1797.

CONTENTS.

	Page
Wootz, a newly discovered Metal	362
Scarcity of Corn	362
Account of Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford	363
Late Countess of Essex, a remarkable epoch in her life	367
Anecdotes and Gleanings	368
Original Letters—of Madame la Fayette and Mr Gibbon	370
Patent for Brewing good Malt Liquor	373
On Romances and Novels, and the proper employment of the time the Fair Sex	374
On the Happiness of Youth	377
Observations on the Manners and Character of the Turks	379
Characters and Manners of the Houzoumas, an African tribe	382
Sharpers and Swindlers	383
Lessons of Humanity; a Conversation	386
Interesting narrative of the fate of some English gentlemen	391
On the Operation of Manure	393
Topography, &c. Ayrshire *concluded*	394
A Friend in Need; an affecting Story	397

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

Anderson's Essays relating to Agriculture	400
Vaillant's new Travels	403
Boyd's Treatise on Planting, and Management of Woods and Coppices	405
NEW PUBLICATIONS	406—8

POETRY.

Translation of an Ode, wrote by Shah Allum, Emperor of Hindostan	408
Caledonia, a favourite Song, by R. Burns	409
Prologue and Epilogue to *The Will*, a Comedy by Mr Reynolds	409

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

House of Commons—Supply, Supplementary Budget, King's Message on the remittance to Ireland, Imperial Loan, Seamen's pay, Vote of Censure, Slave Trade	411—19
House of Lords—Channel Fleet, Bank, &c.	419—20

MONTHLY REGISTER.

GAZETTE INTELLIGENCE.

Containing dispatches from Sir R. Abercromby, Sir Hyde Parker, and Sir C. Whitworth	421—2

CONTINENTAL INTELLIGENCE.

Germany, Italy, and France	422—4

LONDON.

Conclusion of the Account of the mutiny in Channel Fleet	424—7
Army get an advance of pay	427
Prince and Princess of Wurtemburg set off for the Continent	428

DUBLIN.

Execution of four privates of the Monaghan militia	428

EDINBURGH.

Fishermen of Musselburgh and Fisherrow presented with a medal to be worn by their Boxmaster	429
Royal Highland Edinburgh Volunteers receive their colours	429
Trial of Lieut. James Fyffe	429
Proceedings of General Assembly	429
Report of Weather, &c.	431
LISTS—Marriages, Births, &c.	431—4

EDINBURGH:

Sold by JAMES WATSON & Co. No 40. South Bridge.
And by the Principal Bookfellers in Town and Country.
By T. KAY, Strand, London.

WOOTZ.

A NEWLY DISCOVERED METAL.

Doctor Scott, of Bombay, has ſent over to the Royal Society of London ſpecimens of a ſubſtance known by the name of Wootz; which is conſidered to be a kind of ſteel, and which is in high repute among the Indians. Wootz admits of a harder temper than any thing known in that part of India It is employed for covering that part of gun-locks which the flint ſtrikes. It is uſed for cutting iron on a lathe, for cutting ſtones, for chiſſels, for making files, for ſaws, and for every purpoſe where exceſſive hardneſs is neceſſary Dr Scott obſerves, that this ſubſtance cannot bear any thing beyond a very ſlight red heat, which makes it work very tedioufly in the hands of ſmiths; that it is not capable of being welded with iron or ſteel, to which therefore it is joined only by ſcrews and other contrivances; and when it is heated above a ſlight red heat, part of the maſs ſeems to run, and the whole is loſt, as if it conſiſted of metals of different degrees of fuſibility. The working of Wootz is ſo difficult, that it is a ſeparate art from that of working iron. A great number of experiments and obſervations have been made on this ſubſtance by Dr George Pearſon, for the purpoſe of inveſtigating its nature, and, from its properties and compoſition, of inferring the particular cauſes to which it may be applied.

SCARICTY OF COIN.

During the firſt ten years of King Charles's reign, the labouring Poor it ſeems, were often paid their weekly wages in farthing tokens which were much below their nominal value. In the preceding reign, theſe tokens were the only copper coin in circulation Vintners, chandlers, and other retailers of ſmall wares, in London, circulated their own tokens, (uſually of lead,) among their cuſtomers Sir Robert Cotton remarks, that, in and near London, above three thouſand people, one with another, caſt yearly five pounds a-piece in leaden tokens. In conſequence of his advice, King James granted a patent for the coinage of copper tokens; and in 1625, King Charles, in conſideration of a fine (we ſuppoſe an annual one) of one hundred marks for ſeventeen years, permitted the Ducheſs Dowager of Richmond, and Sir Francis Crane, to fabricate farthing tokens of copper. Private tokens, however, continued in circulation till 1635, when they were put down by proclamation.

It may be added, that this ſpecies of money called tokens has encreaſed, and is encreaſing to an alarming degree.

There are upwards of 700 different kinds at preſent in the circle, ſome iſſued by reſponſible perſons, others not; their value is from 30l. to 70l. Sterling per 1000l. The new copper coinage will no doubt have the effect of banithing them from circulation.

THE

SCOTS MAGAZINE,

For JUNE 1797.

ACCOUNT OF HORACE WALPOLE, EARL OF ORFORD.

HORACE WALPOLE was the youngeſt ſon of the celebrated miniſter of Great Britain, Sir Robert Walpole, afterwards Earl of Orford. He was born about the year 1718, and received the early part of his education at Eton, where he firſt became known to the celebrated Mr Gray, whoſe friendſhip at that early period he cultivated, and whoſe eſteem and regard he retained, with a ſhort interruption, to the end of that gentleman's life. From Eton he went to King's College, Cambridge; but, according to the practice of men of rank and fortune at that time, left the Univerſity without taking any degree. While there, he wrote "Verſes in Memory of King Henry the Sixth, Founder of the College," which are dated Feb. 2, 1738, and are probably the firſt production of his pen*. In the ſame year he was appointed Inſpector General of the Exports and Imports; a place which he ſoon after exchanged for that of Uſher of the Exchequer†. To theſe were added the poſt of Comptroller of the Pipe and Clerk of the Eſtreats; all which he held unto his death.

Finding himſelf diſinclined to enter ſo early into the buſineſs of Parliament, he prevailed on his father, Sir Robert Walpole, to permit him to go abroad, and Mr Gray conſented to accompany him in his travels. They left England on the 29th of March 1739, and took their route by the way of France to Italy, viewing whatever was remarkable in the ſeveral places they viſited, and at ſome of them, particularly Florence, reſiding ſeveral months. Unequal friendſhips are not always the moſt laſting. About July 1741 the two friends came to a rupture, and parted at Reggio, each purſuing his journey homewards ſeparately. Of this quarrel the circumſtances are unknown; but Mr Walpole enjoined Mr Maſon to charge him with the chief blame, confeſſing, that more attention, complaiſance, and deference, to a warm friendſhip, and ſuperior judgment and prudence, might have prevented a rupture which gave much uneaſineſs to them both, and a laſting concern to the ſurvivor. The liberality of Mr Walpole on this occaſion deſerves much praiſe; though we cannot but aſſent to Dr Johnſon's remark, that "if we look without prejudice on the world, we ſhall find, that men whoſe conſciouſneſs of their own merit ſets them above the compliances of ſervility, are apt enough, in their aſſociation with ſuperiors, to watch their own dignity with troubleſome and punctilious jealouſy, and in the fervour of independence to exact that attention which they refuſe to pay." In 1744 a reconciliation took place between them, by the intervention of a lady who wiſhed well to both parties; though it is probable the cordiality which had ſubſiſted between them did not wholly return, as Mr Walpole was entirely unnoticed by Mr Gray in his laſt will.

* See Fugitive Pieces, 1758, p. 1. and Pearch's Collection of Poems, Vol. I.

† Maſon's Life of Gray, 4to. p. 54.

In the Parliament which met the 25th of June 1741, he was returned for Callington, and ſoon had an opportunity of ſhewing, that he was not likely to become either a ſilent or inactive member.

The tenor of his life was not much varied by accidents or adventure; though about the year 1749 he narrowly eſcaped the piſtol of a highwayman, the relation of which we ſhall give in his own words*: "An † acquaintance of mine was robbed a few years ago, and very near ſhot through the head by the going-off of the piſtol of the accompliſhed Mr Maclean; yet the whole affair was conducted with the greateſt good-breeding on both ſides. The robber, who had only taken a purſe this way becauſe he had that morning been diſappointed of marrying a great fortune, no ſooner returned to his lodgings, than he ſent the gentleman two letters of excuſes, which with leſs wit than the epiſtles of Voiture, had ten times more natural and eaſy politeneſs in the turn of their expreſſion. In the poſtſcript he appointed a meeting at Tyburn at twelve at night, where the gentleman might purchaſe again any trifles he had loſt; and my friend has been blamed for not accepting the rendezvous, as it ſeemed liable to be conſtrued by ill-natured people into a doubt of the honour of a man who had given him all the ſatisfaction in his power, for having unluckily been near ſhooting him through the head."

In the Parliament which met in 1754, Mr Walpole was returned for King's Lynn; and about the ſame period he occaſionally joined with many of the literati of that time, in aſſiſting Mr Moore in a periodical paper entitled "The World;" of which he wrote No 6, 8, 10, 14, 28, 103, 160, 195, and the concluding World Extraordinary, containing the character of Henry Fox, afterwards Lord Holland. Two other papers intended for this work were afterwards printed in his "Fugitive Pieces."

In 1752 his firſt publication (except ſome Poems in Dodſley's Collection, and a Jeu d'Eſprit in the Muſeum in 1746,) appeared, entitled "Aedes Walpolianæ," deſcribing the beautiful building of Houghton and the pictures therein, ſince ſold to the Empreſs of Ruſſia. In 1757 he publiſhed "A Letter from Xo Ho, a Chineſe Philoſopher at London, to his Friend Lien Chi, at Peking," chiefly on the politics of the day; a performance which went through five editions in a fortnight*.

At this period he devoted his attention more to literary purſuits than at any former time; and in the next year, 1758, produced to the public ſome ſpecimens of his printing preſs, then firſt † exhibited to the notice of the world. Its firſt productions was in 1758, of the ſublime Odes of his friend Mr Gray, and this was followed by the edition and tranſlation of part of Hentzner's Travels, the Firſt Edition of the Catalogue of Royal and Noble Authors, his Fugitive pieces, and the Lord Whitworth's Account of Ruſſia; and to theſe ſucceeded others, of which mention will be made hereafter.

In 1761 he was again re-choſen for King's Lynn; and in the ſame year publiſhed two volumes of his Anecdotes of Painters in England, compiled from the papers of Mr George Vertue, purchaſed at the ſale of the effects of that induſtrious antiquary. It will be allowed, the remains of Mr Vertue could not have fallen into better hands. In 1763 another Volume was added, and alſo the Catalogue of Engravers; and,

* World, Dec. 10, 1754.

† The Author himſelf, as he explains it in his "Fugitive Pieces."

* This was reprinted in the Fugitive Pieces.

† It has been ſaid, that the firſt edition of Mr Gray's Poems, with Mr Bentley's deſigns, was printed at Strawberry Hill: but this we have no doubt is a miſtake.

in

in 1771, the whole was completed in a fourth volume, though it was not published until the year 1780. In 1764 the romantic life of Lord Herbert of Cherbury appeared from the same press; and, on the dismission of General Conway from the army, for a vote given in Parliament, he, in the same year, defended his friend's conduct in a pamphlet entitled, "A Counter-Address to the Public on the late dismission of a General Officer." 8vo.

In the succeeding year he published "The Castle of Otranto," translated, as the title-page asserted, by William Marshall, Gent. from the original Italian of Onuphrio Muralto, Canon of the Church of St Nicholas at Otranto; 8vo. But this disguise was soon laid aside; and, in the same year, a second edition appeared, with the initials of the real Author, whose work has since received all due honour.

In 1766 he is supposed to have indulged the vein of humour which he possessed, in "An Account of the Giants lately discovered, in a Letter to a friend in the country," 8vo. since reprinted in Dilly's "Repository."

He also, about this period, visited Paris; and, while there, had an opportunity of forming a judgment of the insane Socrates, as Mr Burke calls him, of the French nation, the celebrated Jean Jaques Rousseau. Believing him to be, what his subsequent conduct to Mr Hume proved, an impostor, he fabricated a letter as from the King of Prussia, in order to ridicule his continual chimerical complaints of persecution. As the letter was brought by the wrong-headed lunatic as one of his proofs of the duplicity of Mr Hume, and having at the time made some noise, we shall here insert it, with Mr Walpole's attestation on the subject.

"My dear John James,

"You have renounced Geneva, your native soil. You have been driven from Switzerland, a country of which you have made such boast in your writings. In France you are outlawed: come then to me. I admire your talents, and amuse myself with your reveries; on which, however, by the way, you bestow too much time and attention. It is high time to grow prudent and happy; you have made yourself sufficiently talked of for singularities little becoming a truly great man: shew your enemies that you have sometimes common sense; this will vex them without hurting you. My dominions afford you a peaceful retreat. I am desirous to do you good, and will do it, if you can but think it such. But if you are determined to refuse my assistance, you may expect that I shall not say a word about it to any one. If you persist in perplexing your brains to find out new misfortunes, chuse such as you like best; I am a King, and can make you as miserable as you can wish; at the same time I will engage to do that which your enemies never will; I will cease to persecute you when you are no longer vain of persecution.

"Your sincere friend,

"FREDERIC."

Mr Walpole's Letter to Mr Hume was in the following terms:

"*Arlington-street, July 26. 1766.*

"I cannot be precise as to the time of my writing the King of Prussia's Letter; but I do assure you, with the utmost truth, that it was several days before you left Paris, and before Rousseau's arrival there, of which I can give you a strong proof; for I not only suppressed the letter while you staid there, out of delicacy to you, but it was the reason why, out of delicacy to myself, I did not go to see him, as you often proposed to me; thinking it wrong to go and make a cordial visit to a man with a letter in my pocket to laugh at him. You are at full liberty, dear Sir, to make use of what I say in your justification either to Rousseau or to any body else. I should be sorry to have you blamed on my account: I have an hearty contempt of Rousseau, and am perfectly indifferent what any body thinks of the matter. If there

is any fault, which I am far from thinking, let it lie on me. No parts can hinder my laughing at their poſſeſſor, if he is a mountebank; if he has a bad and moſt ungrateful heart, as Rouſſeau has ſhewn in your caſe, into the bargain, he will have my ſcorn likewiſe, as he will that of all good and ſenſible men. You may truſt your ſentence to ſuch, who are as reſpectable judges as any that have pored over ten thouſand more volumes. Your's moſt ſincerely,

H. W."

The Parliament in which he then ſat drawing near a concluſion, Mr Walpole reſolved to retire from public buſineſs; and accordingly announced his intention by the following letter, addreſſed to Wm Langley, Eſq; Mayor of Lynn.

"SIR,

"The declining ſtate of my health, and a wiſh of retiring from all public buſineſs, have for ſome time made me think of not offering my ſervice again to the town of *Lynn* as one of their Repreſentatives in Parliament. I was even on the point of having my ſeat vacated, by one of thoſe temporary places often beſtowed for that purpoſe; but I thought it more reſpectful, and more conſonant to the great and ſingular obligations I have to the corporation and town of *Lynn*, to wait till I had executed their commands, to the laſt hour of the commiſſion they have voluntarily entruſted to me.

"Till then, Sir, I did not think of making this declaration; but hearing that diſſatisfaction and diſſenſions have ariſen amongſt you, (of which I am ſo happy as to have been in no ſhape the cauſe,) that a warm conteſt is expected, and dreading to ſee in the uncorrupted town of *Lynn* what has ſpread ſo fatally in other places, and what I fear will end in the ruin of this conſtitution and country, I think it my duty, by an early declaration, to endeavour to preſerve the integrity and peace of ſo great, ſo reſpectable, and ſo unblemiſhed a borough.

"My father was re-choſen by the free voice of *Lynn*, when impriſoned and expelled by an arbitrary Court and proſtitute Parliament; and from affection to his name, not for the ſmalleſt merit in me, they unanimouſly demanded me for their member while I was ſitting for Caſtle Riſing. Gratitude exacts what, in any other light, might ſeem vain-glorious in me to ſay; but it is to the laſting honour of the town of *Lynn* I declare, that I have repreſented them in two Parliaments, without offering or being aſked for the ſmalleſt gratifications by any one of my conſtituents. May I be permitted, Sir, to flatter myſelf they are perſuaded their otherwiſe unworthy repreſentative has not diſgraced ſo free and unbiaſſed a choice.

"I have ſat above five and twenty years in Parliament: and allow me to ſay, Sir, as I am in a manner giving up my account to my conſtituents, that my conduct in Parliament has been as pure as my manner of coming thither. No man who is or has been miniſter, can ſay that I have ever aſked or received a perſonal favour; my votes have neither been dictated by favour nor influence, but by the principles on which the Revolution was founded, the principles by which we enjoy the eſtabliſhment of the preſent Royal Family, the principles to which the town of *Lynn* has ever adhered, and by which my father commenced and cloſed his venerable life. The beſt and only honours I deſire would be to find that my conduct has been acceptable and ſatisfactory to my conſtituents.

"From your kindneſs, Sir, I muſt intreat to have this notification made in the moſt reſpectful and grateful manner to the corporation and town of *Lynn*. Nothing can exceed the obligation I have to them but my ſenſibility of their favours. And be aſſured, Sir, that no terms can outgo the eſteem I have for ſo upright and untainted a Borough, or the affection I feel for all their goodneſs to my family and to me. My trifling

ſervices